

ALACHUA COUNTY LABOR COALITION

SUMMER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Open Letter from the ACLC to Kent Fuchs

President Fuchs,

I am writing on behalf of the Alachua County Labor Coalition (ACLC). The ACLC does not purport to speak for all UF's OPS workers; however, many of our members are OPS workers and we have heard from hundreds of them in recent months. We have sought to share their concerns with you. We are aware of and respect your considerations regarding racial and economic inequality in our community and the role that UF's employment practices play in fostering this inequality.

In light of those considerations, we hope that you can truly appreciate the precarious position that so many of your employees find themselves in. As a former OPS employee myself, I grappled with a lack of any paid sick leave, job insecurity, feelings of insignificance and disrespect in my role at UF, and fears resulting from my ineligibility for Social Security or disability due to UF's use of FICA alternative for OPS employees.

By now, the university has heard from many others besides the ACLC on this issue. You've heard from the over 1,000 people who have signed our petition. You've heard from the editorial Boards

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An OPS worker attempting to give her perspective as the Faculty Senate discusses OPS workers. She was not allowed to speak.

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ALACHUA COUNTY LABOR COALITION

Stay updated with the Labor Coalition via our website and Facebook for related news, upcoming meetings, and events.



Alachua County
Labor Coalition

facebook.com/laborcoalition

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Office Hours
Monday–Thursday,
1:00-5:00PM
Or by Appointment

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Alachua County Labor Coalition (ACLC) is composed of individuals, unions, and worker-friendly organizations committed to the rights of working people, their families, and communities. We meet monthly and updated information about our meetings can be found via our website, Facebook group, and e-newsletter.

BOARD MEMBERS

Laurie Taylor & Scott Darius, *Co-Chairs*
Sean Trainor & Dave Hennig (Emeritus), *Treasurers*
Sheila Payne, *Membership Coordinator*
Chad Hood, *Health Care Liaison*
Jeremiah Tattersall, *Union Liaison*
Timothy Tia, *ACLC Coordinator*
Shawna Doran & Greg Mullaley, *Alachua County Green Party Delegates*
Doug Bernal, *Veterans for Peace Delegate*
James Ingle, *IBEW 1205 Delegate*
Jason Fults, *North Florida Central Labor Council Delegate*

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

All Member Organizations are encouraged to appoint a Delegate to the ACLC Board.

- Alachua County Green Party
- Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 1579
- Civic Media Center
- Communication Workers of America, Local 3170
- Cultural Arts Coalition
- Gainesville Veterans for Peace
- Industrial Workers of the World, Gainesville Branch
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1205
- North Central Florida Central Labor Council
- Pride Community Center of North Central FL
- Rural Women's Health Project
- UF Graduate Assistants United
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville Social Justice Council
- United Church of Gainesville Social Justice Committee
- United Faculty of Florida
- Women's March

New Faces at the ACLC!

Co-Chair: Scott Darius

Scott Darius is the Executive Director of Florida Voices for Health. He began his career in health advocacy in 2012 when he joined Florida CHAIN as a volunteer intern helping with assorted advocacy projects and research assignments. In 2014 Scott officially joined Florida CHAIN's staff as the Digital and Community Organizer and became an Affordable Care Act Navigator. He eventually became the Advocacy Director where he helped to coordinate the statewide campaign for Medicaid expansion. Scott has always had a passion for health care issues and hopes to be engaged in the process until quality affordable health care is truly available for everyone. Scott graduated from the University of Florida College of Law in May of 2013. He also completed his Bachelor's degree at the University of Florida with a major in political science in 2010. As a law student, he focused on health policy, insurance law and social justice issues.



Treasurer: Sean Trainor

Sean Trainor is the Alachua County Labor Coalition's incoming treasurer. In addition to his role on the Labor Coalition's board, he is also a board member and co-founder of the ACLC's Living Wage Certification Project, the newspaper organizer for Gainesville's chapter of Socialist Alternative, and the co-host of a weekly politics podcast called Impolitic. In his professional life, Sean teaches writing at the University of Florida and works as a freelance writer.



ACLC Members tabling in Bo Diddley Plaza during Gainesville's May Day Celebration.

ACLC Candidate Questionnaires for Alachua County Elections Aug. 28

While the ACLC does not endorse candidates, we do poll them to learn where they stand on issues that are important to our members. In April we began sending out questions regarding issues we care about to candidates for the Alachua County Commission and Alachua County School Board. Below are the responses that we've received thus far. To see the complete responses, visit our website (<http://laborcoalition.org>). We strongly encourage Labor Coalition members to familiarize themselves with the various candidates for office and to get out and vote. The election will take place August 28th, 2018.

Alachua County Commission Candidate Questionnaire

1) Do you support paying a living wage to all County workers including part-time, temporary, seasonal, and contracted workers? (The ACLC defines a living wage as 125% of the Federal Poverty Level - currently \$14.78 an hour.)

Randy Wells - District 2 Candidate: I absolutely support paying all public employees and contractors a living wage, thereby serving as a role model for other employers throughout the county. I specifically support the pledge to budget funds to bring all employees up to \$15 an hour, and the existing county ordinance that requires contractors to pay a minimum wage of \$13 per hour plus benefits or \$15.04 without benefits.



Randy Wells - Candidate for County Commission District 2

Ken Cornell - District 4 Candidate: Yes

a. How will you ensure contracted workers are paid the set wage?

Randy Wells - District 2 Candidate: I strongly support the existing right of contracted workers, if they are not paid the required minimum wage, to file a Wage Recovery Complaint through the Alachua County Equal Opportunity Office. I am open to strengthening this process if needed.

Marihelen Wheeler - District 2 Candidate: I will work with the Commission to convince employers of the need to circulate monies in our community by increasing pay to the targeted living wage of \$15 an hour. I will encourage those most active in this movement to continue to speak to the issue before the Commission and invite them to bring most affected workers with them to challenge any resistance to the goal. I will continue to support wage theft recovery and help to set system in place for workers to report problems.

Ken Cornell - District 4 Candidate: In 2015 the



Marihelen Wheeler - Candidate for County Commission District 2



*Ken Cornell - Candidate for
County Commission District 4*

County Commission implemented an ordinance to establish a local government minimum wage starting at \$12/hour for both county employees and contractors who choose to do business with the County.

b. What is your plan to get us there?

Randy Wells - District 2 Candidate: A living wage for all public employees and contractors is within reach, and I will be a determined voice to get there and stay there. However, political and budget constraints remain a challenge to keep that wage from being eroded by inflation and living costs. For example, the Feder-

al minimum wage in 1968 was approximately \$11.60 per hour, adjusted for inflation.

The only way to achieve that goal, given limited resources, is to insist on quality, collaborative management that empowers every staff person to create great value and a meaningful career path. As county commissioner, the challenge of quality management will be the metric by which I judge our top management—and in particular the rubric for selecting and evaluating our county manager.

To protect the living wage, we must capture the benefits of paying a living wage. Providing a living wage will help us build and retain local talent, and help address wide income disparity throughout the county—saving dollars and strengthening the local workforce. Investing in the skills of our staff will create value to both the employee and the taxpayer.

Marihelen Wheeler - District 2 Candidate: I will continue the conversation forward so to keep the focus and momentum towards the \$15 goal. Moving people out of poverty also helps to insure that their children will go to school well fed, less stressed and prepared to learn. We can break the cycle of ignorance, neglect and despair by improving the living conditions of children and the elderly by supporting the work force. I intend to use my experience as a public school teacher of 32 years in North Florida to make this point firmly and consistently.

Ken Cornell - District 4 Candidate: The current plan is to increase the local government minimum wage \$.50/hour per year. We are currently \$13/hr and plan to raise this to \$13.50 for FY18-19.

c. What ideas do you have to help improve wages and benefits for workers throughout our community?

Randy Wells - District 2 Candidate: Wages are one critical part of improving the quality of life for all residents. I will be a steady but strong voice encouraging every major employer to join the cause for living wages.

Over the long term, we must continue to grow our local economy, primarily by investing in the skills of our residents. And we must celebrate the many private employers already paying living wages or better—and encourage more to join us through efforts such as the ACLC's Living Wage Certification Project. I am proud to have encouraged many business owners I know to pursue certification.

(Randy Wells' answer to this question was abbreviated due to length. His full answer to this question can be read at <http://laborcoalition.org/2018/05/31/randy/>)

Marihelen Wheeler - District 2 Candidate: As a teacher, I have the experience of working with families from a wide range of socioeconomic and cultural communities. Many of those were not academics. One of my goals is to work with labor and the School Board to push for vocational training options and renew respect for the trades. Our community goal must be to help provide the right jobs for prepared workers, and pay well enough so no working family lives in poverty.

Ken Cornell - District 4 Candidate: Working with the Labor Coalition to lobby our largest employers (UF, Santa Fe, etc) to follow the County's lead or even exceed what the county has done.

2) Do you support providing paid administrative leave for part-time, temporary, seasonal, and contracted City workers in the event of emergency work closures (e.g., hours missed due to Hurricanes)?

Randy Wells - District 2 Candidate: Absolutely yes. All county workers should receive the same leave benefits in the event of emergency work closures. We can no longer leave our most vulnerable workers and their families "out in the cold" during times of emergency—precisely when income is most needed to deal with crisis.

Marihelen Wheeler - District 2 Candidate: YES

Ken Cornell - District 4 Candidate: Yes

3) Do you support a "Renters Bill of Rights" which would:

- inform renters of their rights under existing laws
- offer an alternative to costly courts to settle disputes over security deposits and damages
- protect renters from high utility bills by enacting policies that require landlords to make basic investments in energy efficiency

Randy Wells - District 2 Candidate: Yes. We can and should do a better job of informing renters of their rights and provide an easier way for renters and property owners to cheaply adjudicate disputes. I propose that the county establish a special magistrate (similar to one I helped establish for city codes enforcement) to adjudicate disputes under the proposed "Renters Bill of Rights" ordinance. I also support requirements for landlords to make basic investments in energy efficiency, provided they can be shown to be cost effective, and will seek ways to cheaply finance those improvements so as to not harm landlords make those investments.

Marihelen Wheeler - District 2 Candidate: YES

Ken Cornell - District 4 Candidate: Yes

4) Do you support a local hiring preference that includes the use of certified apprenticeship programs for taxpayer funded projects?

Randy Wells - District 2 Candidate: Yes. I favor a local hiring preference (as clearly provided for in state law) for taxpayer funded projects, to include the use of high quality, certified apprenticeship programs. Hiring local talent and expertise ensures our tax dollars stay within our community and support additional local jobs and business development. Apprenticeship programs are an excellent way to develop our local workforce and the county can be a leader in supporting these programs. My vision (outlined above) includes making Alachua County known as Apprenticeship Central – with an eventual goal of cre-

ating or maintaining 2500 paid apprenticeships and internships countywide.

Marihelen Wheeler - District 2 Candidate: YES

Ken Cornell - District 4 Candidate: Yes

Alachua County School Board Candidate Questionnaire

1) Do you support paying a living wage to all School Board workers including part-time, temporary, seasonal, and contracted workers? (The ACLC defines a living wage as 125% of the Federal Poverty Level – currently \$14.78 an hour).



Tina Certain - Candidate for School Board District 1

Tina Certain - District 1 Candidate: Yes

April Griffin - District 1 Candidate: Yes

a. How will you ensure contracted workers are paid the set wage?

Tina Certain - District 1 Candidate: To ensure that workers are paid the living wage, the requirement needs to be adopted by ordinance or policy by majority of board. I would support that policy. The Increased costs would have to be incorporated into the budget.

April Griffin - District 1 Candidate: We are currently working on our budget for the next year. We have set this as a priority in our strategic plan.

Judith McNeil - District 3 Candidate: I cannot insure it but I will collaborate with board members and the union to reach that goal.

Gunnar Paulson - District 3 Candidate: Yes

Rob Hyatt - District 5 Candidate: I am in favor of adopting policies that will protect contracted workers. If the half-cent sales tax initiative is approved by the voters there will be an abundance of opportunities for local builders and contractors and there should be a strong incentive to follow guidelines. I would appreciate input from the ACLC in this matter.

b. What is your plan to get us there?

Tina Certain - District 1 Candidate: After an initial increase, have a phase in period of say 3 years to get all employees to the 14.78/hr or indexed rate.

April Griffin - District 1 Candidate: We set this as a priority in our strategic plan and have been working towards the goal of a living wage for all of our employees. As of now, including benefits, we are close to \$15.00/hour. We provide health insurance to all of our hourly staff if they work at least half time. This benefit, added to our hourly wage is close to \$15.00/hour. We are looking at ways to increase the base pay to \$15.00 over the next few years.

Judith McNeil - District 3 Candidate: Collaborating with board members and the

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union representative that the pay scale is competitive.

Gunnar Paulson - District 3 Candidate: This is one of the five priorities of our strategic plan. This ensures it will be part of the budget being developed at the present time as the strategic plan drives the budget.

Rob Hyatt - District 5 Candidate: I would like to set a plan to reach a living wage over a six-year period. An hourly increase (for educational service professionals and part-time only) of \$1.33 per hour in the upcoming year would come at a cost of \$4,234,571 which becomes an annual recurring cost. At the end of six years the estimated annual cost would rise to \$13,658,879. For this to happen we must secure significant additional funding from the state or be allowed to raise the necessary monies. I cannot promise success in this endeavor but do promise to make it a personal priority.



April Griffin - Candidate for School Board District 1

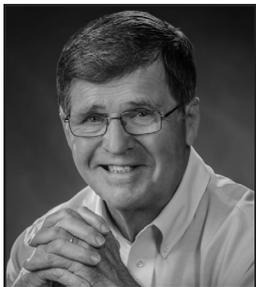
c. What ideas do you have to help improve wages and benefits for workers throughout our community?

Tina Certain - District 1 Candidate: Pay and benefits usually correlate to skill set; those with greater skills usually fair better in the job market. Increase vocational and career technical training in high school, apprenticeships and/or post-secondary training would prepare our local workforce for jobs that offer higher wages and benefits.

April Griffin - District 1 Candidate: One of the best ways for folks to increase their income is by professional and skills development. We should increase our partnerships with Santa Fe College and other adult education groups.

Judith McNeil - District 3 Candidate: Represent the community well on the board by being an advocate for students in obtaining an equal and equitable education. The goal is to have educated citizens that will contribute to the local workforce.

Gunnar Paulson - District 3 Candidate: We will raise the minimum wage significantly more than the overall raise given. We have adhered to this the last two years by increasing the minimum wage by 13%. This is in comparison to an overall 4% raise. Both the union and our staff have been informed they need to continue working on the salary schedule to keep its integrity so that we can continue to raise the minimum wage towards our goal of at least \$15 per hour including health insurance. I say at least because we provide 100% paid health insurance to any employee who works at least half time. (Half time is defined as 4 hrs). I brought up two years ago during our setting of our priorities that we needed to raise the minimum wage. This will continue to be a major priority of mine. I have made it known to our staff an added increase to the minimum wage must be budgeted right at the beginning of the budget process each year for us to continue to progress towards our goal and I will not agree to any budget that does not continue to make progress towards reaching this goal.



Gunnar Paulson - Candidate for School Board District 3

Rob Hyatt - District 5 Candidate: The School Board has a strong, collaborative working relationship

with the ACEA representing all members of the bargaining unit. Strong relationships with unions are essential for all governmental bodies. I am still a proud union member and would prefer to do business with a union shop. The School Board provides full health benefits for all employees half-time and above. We are the second largest employer in the county which enables us to have a positive effect on the wages and benefits of a large number of people. Increases in wages and benefits are a plank of our Strategic Plan.



Rob Hyatt - Candidate for School Board District 5

2) Do you support providing paid administrative leave for part-time, temporary, seasonal, and contracted City workers in the event of emergency work closures (e.g., hours missed due to Hurricanes)?

Tina Certain - District 1 Candidate : Yes. I support providing paid administrative leave for part-time, temporary, seasonal and contracted school board workers in the event of emergency work closures for natural disasters like hurricanes. The money has already been budgeted and the employee would have worked if the disaster had not occurred.

April Griffin - District 1 Candidate: The School Board did pay our employees that worked over-time hours during the hurricanes. The last I checked, we are still waiting for our reimbursement from the state for wages, food supplies and cleaning. If their work place was not open, we offered an alternate work place for the days so that their pay would not be affected. We build in “storm days” into our calendar. For those that could not get in to their work site for whatever reason, it was considered an unpaid day and was made up when we put our set aside storm days back into our calendar.

Judith McNeil - District 2 Candidate: No. I do not believe different agencies will have the funds to cover the costs incurred due to uncontrollable events: hurricanes, flooding, fires, high winds, airborne biohazards and power outages. The event will cause funding constraints and state funding should be given to workers who provide the services. The severity will determine state voucher assistance to docked employees.

Gunnar Paulson - District 3 Candidate: I served as chairman of the health insurance committee while union president and wrote the committees long range plan. We have kept the costs of our health care plan down by making subtle changes when needed allowing our employees to have health insurance fully paid by the district with good benefits while freeing up money like we did last year that can be used for raises and help raise the minimum wage. Every board member, commissioner, etc should look for ways to find money and then use the money for wages and benefits. I see the ultimate solution is that we provide universal single payer health insurance. In the meantime we will continue to provide Health Insurance free of charge.

Rob Hyatt - District 5 Candidate: I would expect this to be addressed in the contract and that a fair and equitable agreement would be reached to address this issue. I support the intent but would have to know the cost.

The School Board Candidates’ answers to additional questions can be read at laborcoalition.org.



ACLC Members and Florida Labor Activists share a table at the Labor Notes “Troublemakers’ Banquet” in Chicago.

Labor Notes

By Jason Fults, Board Member of the Alachua County Labor Coalition

For the first time in the ten years that I’ve been a member, the ACLC sponsored two people to attend this year’s Labor Notes conference. ACLC Coordinator Tim Tia and I made the trek to chilly Chicago to attend the April conference together, both first-timers, along with several ACLC veterans such as Lauren Byers, Candi Churchill, Mark Piotrowski, and Joe Richard. Candi felt it was important enough that we attend that she made an extra contribution to help cover our costs, and Mark put Tim and I up in his hotel room. I thoroughly enjoyed the rousing event and am optimistic that it will become a biennial tradition and that more ACLC members will attend in the future.

While I’ve attended many progressive political conferences, Labor Notes was undoubtedly one of the most moving. Each day of the conference ended with a plenary that featured dynamic, get-you-off-your-feet-and-hollerin’ speakers such as:

Al Russo, a Communications Workers Vice President who led the CWA 1101 local in their successful contract fight against Verizon. Russo reiterated how important it was that groups (like the Labor Coalition!) led solidarity pickets across the East Coast.

Roz Pelles from the Poor People’s Campaign, who introduced a video appearance by Reverend Williams Barber and gave one of the most fiery speeches of the entire conference.

Representatives from the West Virginia teachers’ strike.

And Mercedes Martinez of the Puerto Rican Teachers Federation, who discussed the devastating impacts of Hurricane Maria, ongoing efforts to undermine PR’s education system, and the brave fight-back led by the Teachers Federation.

Each of these speakers detailed important and inspiring fights taking place within communities, within their own unions, and within the broader economy in support of worker power and economic justice. They were the perfect way to round off days filled with informative, nuts and bolts workshops where we learned about everything from long-term trends in the economy to how to build membership in our locals and how to bargain a stronger contract.

I attended a highly interactive and discussion-based CWA-sponsored workshop

called “Reversing Runaway Inequality” that I would very much like to bring to our community. No stranger to wealth inequality, I still learned a lot from this workshop and it helped frame other discussions I took part in, such as “Roots of the Public Sector Budget Crisis,” “Community Labor Alliances,” and a panel on student-labor activism. I also appreciated the strong presence and emphasis on education workers and attended numerous education-focused workshops where I learned a variety of strategies and insights that will be useful in my own workplace. While most of the conference attendees hailed from parts of the U.S. with much higher union density, some of my favorite speakers and panelists were southerners who had managed to build vibrant locals even in the face of “right-to-work” laws and a culture unfriendly to unions. The conference also featured musical performances and film screenings, such as the new MLK documentary “At the River I Stand,” which had to be rescreened in a larger venue because of overflow crowds.

I left Labor Notes feeling renewed and inspired to get back to work. I met unsung heroes who have fought for decades to build their unions and a militant, resilient labor movement as well as folks like myself who are relative newbies to organized labor. But what impressed me most was the diversity of attendees and the sense of solidarity that ran throughout the conference. I heard very little posturing so common at large, progressive gatherings. Instead, people cheered support and congrats for each other at the slightest provocation, and when disagreements were expressed or probing questions posed, it felt very much in the spirit of comradeship and genuine interest in building a stronger labor movement.

The closing moments of the conference found me in an auditorium filled with hundreds of people, holding hands with some fella I’d never met and singing “Solidarity Forever.” When the song finished, he embraced me and said “Safe travels, brother.” That moment encapsulated the familial sensation that ran throughout the conference, and I left hoping that I will be fortunate enough to make it back in 2020, and that the visions and struggles that were so beautifully articulated throughout Labor Notes will be closer to fruition.



ALCL Board Members Laurie Taylor and Sheila Payne march in Gainesville's May Day Parade.

Medicare 4 All & Medicare's Birthday

By Dr. Chad Hood, ACLC Health Care Liason

Each July, the Alachua County Labor Coalition celebrates one of the greatest public health triumphs of the 20th century with a Medicare Birthday Party. Join us on Saturday, July 28th, for cake and shared testimony about improving and expanding Medicare to all residents. This year's celebration will be at Working Food Community Center in Gainesville from 5:00 – 7:00.

The celebration is particularly jubilant this year in light of ACLC's partnership with a new national organization dedicated to making single-payer health care a political reality. The Medicare 4 All (M4A) campaign is funding activists in key states around the country (including Florida!) to strengthen a grassroots movement specifically for a single-payer system. The group is sponsored by long-time supportive organizations like National Nurses United, Healthcare-NOW, Physicians for a National Health Program, and the Center for Popular Democracy.

A national M4A organizing committee meeting is planned in June, with campaigns starting in seven states around the country. Experienced and passionate activists (many of them from the Fight for Fifteen campaign) will be working in battleground and blue/swing states with a unified strategy – to build outrage and support for a national health care system that covers everyone while simultaneously saving billions of dollars.

It's exciting and motivating that Florida will be front and center as part of the national rollout with an ongoing statewide operation based in Tampa. The M4A kick-off event will be in Tampa on June 9th at 1:00. Be sure to sign up for a spot in the ACLC van to show our support!

From there, future events will be planned in Florida, coordinated around national M4A days of action. These activities will focus around election dates and campaigns as the movement asks residents and politicians alike to take a public stance on Medicare



A packed room at at "Just Health Care" Meeting as Organizers from Medicare4.All speak about building a nationwide grassroots movement for Single-Payer-Healthcare.

for All. This will inform and empower the citizenry to demand single-payer as an election-defining issue in 2020.

As a long-time single-payer supporter myself, I am energized and excited by this news. Bernie Sanders as a presidential candidate bolstered single-payer as a realistic possibility in the popular press. Fueled by paid organizers working around the country specifically on this issue, we now have a realistic road map to single-payer. The moment we have been waiting for is here. It's time to spread the word about Medicare for All as the true moral and financial solution. When we get rid of private insurance companies and put all residents in a single plan, we save enough money to cover everyone. EVERYBODY IN, NOBODY OUT!!

Please join us in our road trip to Tampa for the statewide kick off of the M4A campaign on Saturday, June 9th. We look forward to seeing you at our annual Medicare Birthday Party on Saturday, July 28th.



OPEN LETTER, cont. from p.1

of the Gainesville Sun and The Alligator. You've heard from the UF chapters of United Faculty of Florida and Graduate Assistants United, as well as from concerned City and County Commissioners. Both the UF Faculty Senate and Student Government -- as well as voices throughout our community -- have ringingly endorsed an end to the abuse of the OPS classification.

UF is a vital institution in this community but does not exist apart from it. UF has long acknowledged its responsibility to be accountable to the entire Gainesville community, as discussed in the University's Strategic Development Plan and elsewhere. Now is the time for UF to act in support of OPS workers, in unity with the UF Faculty Senate, United Faculty of Florida Chapter at UF, Graduate Assistants United, and UF Student Government.

We would very much like to hear your perspective on this issue and your intended course of action prior to UF's upcoming Board meeting. We will continue working on this issue. We will work in conjunction with UF's board, the state legislature, and even the new governor. And we will do so until this issue is resolved and UF's OPS workers are treated with the dignity and equity they deserve.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience,

Jason Fults
ACLC Board member and former UF OPS worker

Moving Forward with Apprenticeships

James Ingle, President of the IBEW and ACLC Board Member

Apprenticeship programs are an amazingly effective system that tradesmen have been using to educate each other for centuries. In their modern form, apprenticeships pair classroom and on-the-job training requirements to give the next generation of construction and maintenance workers a well-rounded understanding of their field. Apprentices attend classes outside working hours to learn the theory and physics behind their trade, as well as study codes and regulations that they are expected to work to in the field. On the job site, apprentices work with more experienced craftsmen to learn the skills needed to actually apply the work they study. Apprentices are paid for the work they do, there is a clear path for advancement throughout their time of study, and they graduate with recognized certifications and opportunities for decent paying jobs with a secure future. It is a great system, but it doesn't come cheap.

Responsible contractors and labor organizations that participate in apprenticeship programs make a significant investment in training these apprentices. There is a proposal before the Gainesville City Commission to require construction and maintenance contractors that do work for the city to utilize registered apprentices on publicly-funded projects. Even if the project costs a little more initially, the investment in the education of our local workforce is a wise one.

We have just elected two wonderful new City Commissioners who are committed to addressing issues that face working class folks in our community. As the dust settles after the election and the priorities of the new Commission are being set, we need to reach out and remind our Commission about this important issue. Please speak with your Commissioners and let them know that we want a strong ordinance with real enforcement capabilities requiring apprenticeship programs on public projects. As this proposal moves through the process of becoming reality, we will need to be ready to speak up to keep it from becoming a watered down symbolic gesture.



ACLC Board Member Jason Fuels speaks to a packed room on Renters' Rights at our May Membership Meeting.

The ACLC has been instrumental in creating a way for workers to recover unpaid wages through our wage theft ordinance. We have made sure county and city workers are getting closer to a fair wage through our living wage campaign. I am looking forward to adding an apprenticeship requirement to the list of ways our members have made life better for the working class here in Gainesville and Alachua County.

To Our Members: There's No Us Without You!

Thank you to our Committee of 100 members, who provide a monthly pledge to the ACLC to sustain our work—you form the core of support that pays for the ACLC's day-to-day expenses so that we can focus on organizing!

Jade Allen	Skipper Hammond	Linda Piotrowski-Lavery
Kirk Anthony	Dan Harmeling	Eric Piotrowski
Mary Bahr	Dave Hennig & Nancy Shebeneck	Mark Piotrowski
Lujoye Barnes	Chad Hood	Alice Primack
Joey Brenner	IBEW Local 1205	Andrew Reynolds
Caron Cadle and Ralf Remshardt	Robert Ing	Leah Rosenberg
Randi Cameon	James & Trish Ingle	Robert Sammel
Scott Camil	Beth & Kurt Kent	Kathie Sarachild
Central Fla. Central Labor Council	Alex Leader & Jeff Mason	Zoharah Simmons
Lynn Chacko	Debra Lewis	Dari Smith
Candi Churchill	Eric Lindstrom & Amandine Lejuene	Fred Southwick
Ira & Joanna Clark	Vince Lipsio	Gerald Stein
Carol Cobb	M. Glen McClure & Theresa Spurling-Wood	Sherry Steiner
Ken Cornell	Dr. Murdo MacLeod	Timothy Strauser & Marcy Strauser-Wilson
Amy Coenen	Richard and Eve MacMaster	Anita Sundaram
Joe Courter	Chris & Jane Medved	Linell Szurgot
CWA 3170	Albert & Marivic Meyer	Jeremiah Tattersall
Scott Darius	Pamela & Tracy Moorman	Laurie & Pete Taylor
Deep Root Medicine	Greg Mullaley	Carol Thomas
Nancy Deren	Ann Murray	Ranson Thomas
Cynthia Digby	Paul Ortiz	James Thompson
Shawna Doran	Susan O'Brien	Richard Trachsel
Marilyn Eisenberg	Paul Parker	Sean Trainor
Brooke & Nate Eliazar-Macke	Sheila Payne	Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Committee
Ed Emery	Sara Peden & Stephen Roberts	United Faculty of Fla.
Pennie Foster	Julie Penrod-Glenn	Martin & Vibeke Vala
Jason Fulst	Jack Penrod	Veterans for Peace
Regan Garner	Kate Phillips	Gainesville
Bill Gilbert		Michael Walker
Green Party		Harvey Ward
Norma Green		Bill & Sally Warrick
Gaby Gross		Steady Young

**ALACHUA COUNTY
LABOR COALITION**

POST OFFICE BOX 12051
GAINESVILLE, FL 32604

Upcoming Meetings and Events

June Membership Meeting

Tuesday, June 26th, 6 PM,
at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church

Just Health Care Meeting

Tuesday, July 10th, 6 PM,
at the ACLC Office

Living Wage Certification Project Meeting

Wednesday, July 11th, 5:30 PM,
at the ACLC Office

Medicare's Birthday Party

Saturday, July 28th 5PM,
at Working Food Kitchen