

# Western Colorado Congress CLARION

CONNECTING YOU TO OUR ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY ACTION



Above: The faces of local community members built a wall of support for meaningful immigration reform in downtown Grand Junction on November 28. The installation will remain in place for several weeks. Above left: WCC members delivered postcards in support of the Dream Act to Congressman Tipton's office in Grand Junction later in the afternoon.

## Creating a portrait for immigration reform

by Jerial Brammeier, WCC Community Organizer

Over 200 people demonstrated their support for the 2017 Dream Act on November 28 by attending the Inside Out Dreamers Project in Grand Junction. Participants had their photo taken in the Inside Out photo truck, then watched as it was pasted on the wall of a downtown business.

One face notably missing is that of U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton, who activist groups have been targeting with calls, postcards

and emails to ask that he support the passage of clean immigration reform legislation before the end of the year.

The Inside Out collage is a nationwide participatory art initiative aimed at creating a portrait of America that includes immigrants and the descendants of immigrants alike. It brings clarity to the fact that the nearly 800,000 impacted by the misguided decision to rescind the DACA program are not numbers, but human beings,

each with their own powerful story. Their stories are American stories, solidly connected to the heterogeneity of America's heritage.

Since President Trump's announcement on Sept. 6 that he would end the DACA program (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) in six months, WCC has been working with its allies to rally support for these young "Dreamers" who were brought to

*Continued on page 3*

**WHETHER YOU  
CALL IT  
WCC 2.0 OR  
WCA 1.0,  
THE NEW  
YEAR WILL  
BE BRINGING  
CHANGES!**

SEE ARTICLES ON PAGE 2  
FOR DETAILS!

WESTERN COLORADO CONGRESS  
PO BOX 1931  
GRAND JUNCTION CO 81502

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
GRAND JUNCTION, CO  
PERMIT NO. 134

### Inside

WCC plans changes in 2018.....	2	WORC is in search of homegrown stories .....	5
Battlement residents rise to defend community rights.....	3	Reclaiming coal mines could boost local economies.....	6
Mesa County to get third pitch on renewables program .....	4	WCC is hiring!.....	7
Air quality doesn't recognize political boundaries .....	4	Feasibility study underway.....	7
Who's footing the bill for affordable housing?.....	5	Your Concern, Your Community, Your Campaign.....	8



# WCC planning changes in 2018

by Emily Hornback, Staff Director

2017 was a big year for Western Colorado Congress. On top of all our campaign work, members and staff spent the better part of the year re-assessing our organization and collective work.

After a series of interviews, surveys, and community meetings, the message was clear: **people across Western Colorado want a strong and powerful grassroots organization** that builds community power from the ground up, holds elected official accountable, and organizes people to build healthy, just, and self-reliant communities.

**It was also clear we needed to make some changes.** The Western Slope has changed over the past 30 years and WCC needs to grow and adapt as well to meet the needs of our communities.

In November, WCC leaders came together and made decisions to help the organization respond to this feedback, taking a hard look at our name, mission, vision and organizational structure. (See article at right.)

We are still working out some of the details, but **in 2018, WCC will look a little different.** We look forward to sharing these decisions with you when we formally roll-out “WCC 2.0” in early 2018.

We also agreed to support the resurrection of a dormant sister organization focused on changing the political landscape in Western Colorado. **After almost ten years, Colorado Rural Voters will be back on the scene in 2018**, re-building and gearing up to engage in future election cycles. Colorado Rural Voters is a 501(c)4 project

of our regional parent network, the Western Organization of Resource Councils.

CRV will be able to get directly involved in influencing elections, endorsing candidates and ultimately helping recruit, train and support new leaders running for office. Thus, our members not only can work on issues that impact us through WCC, but can also ensure that

decision makers vote the right way on these issues through CRV. **Or better yet, we will become the decision makers ourselves.**

Despite these changes, one thing will remain constant, the core values that founded our organization: grassroots organizing and working directly with people to affect change in our communities.

**Thank you** to all of our members over the decades who have built and supported WCC. Thank you to the dozens of members who helped complete the assessment and are guiding our organization into the future. You are the heart and soul of our organization and together we will build power from the ground up and support new, visionary leadership for Western Colorado.

## Paving the way for our organization's future as an alliance

by Steve Allerton, WCC President

Through thoughtful deliberation, our Board has come to the conclusion that **changing the name of Western Colorado Congress to Western Colorado Alliance** – with a tag line **“For Community Action”** – will provide a clearer understanding of the organization's mission.

“The main goal of this organization is “empowerment of people, deciding who will make decisions that will affect our lives.” said Chuck Worley, one of WCC's founders in 1983.

So it was 34 years ago, so it is today. Western Colorado Congress has a long and proud history of community action and leadership development.

Now, after over three decades of work, the organization has embarked upon a re-visioning process. With support from Teresa Purcell of Purcell Public Affairs, we've gathered information from members and non-members alike to provide insight into the organization's strengths and areas for improvement.

The Board of Directors and staff have been hard at work considering the data and considering recommendations that will impact the organization for years to come.

As the board strived to honor the legacy of the organization, it is also charged with looking forward. In gauging the changing political climate, the Board is assessing whether the structure of the organization

enables it to reach and inspire all potential member demographics, and adapt to changes in our work.

Paired with the name change, our vision and mission statements have been revised and updated to:

- **Vision:** *Engaged local voices are leading communities across Western Colorado that are healthy, just, and self-reliant.*
- **Mission:** *Western Colorado Alliance brings people together to build power by grassroots organizing and developing leaders.*

The Board is also formulating a strategic plan that will refocus our work with existing affiliated groups as well as open the door to a broader audience of potential members and organizing opportunities. The strategic plan will be finalized by January 2018. Stay tuned to the next issue of the *Clarion* for full details!

Change challenges us all to look inward and self-reflect on our interests, our capabilities, and our ability to fulfill the mission we so deeply care about.

We are excited about these changes and believe that we're paving the way for the next generation of community leaders fully capable of impacting the change they want to see in the world.



Steve Allerton, WCC President



An Alliance for Community Action

### Western Colorado Congress

is a grassroots, democratic organization dedicated to challenging injustice by organizing people to increase their power over decisions that affect their lives.

WCC's community groups and members work together to create healthy, sustainable communities, social and economic justice, environmental stewardship and a truly democratic society.

### Grand Junction Office

134 N. 6th St., PO Box 1931  
Grand Junction CO 81502  
(970) 256-7650

Emily Hornback, Staff Director  
Marie Mitchell, Development  
Jeriel Brammeier, Organizer  
Joel Dyar, Organizer

Kelly Dougherty, Membership  
Brenda Bafus-Williams, Communications  
Lehua La'a, Intern

[www.wccongress.org](http://www.wccongress.org)  
[info@wccongress.org](mailto:info@wccongress.org)

### WCC Board of Directors

#### Officers

Steve Allerton President, Grand Junction  
Reed Kelley, Vice President, Meeker  
Dudley Case, Treasurer, Ridgway  
Shari VanderVelde, Secretary, Grand Jct

#### At-large directors

Bob Arrington, Battlement Mesa  
Rick Baer, Grand Junction  
Ricardo Perez, Montrose  
Rodger Steen, Steamboat Springs  
Monica Wiitanen, Paonia

#### Local Affiliate Directors

GRAND VALLEY CITIZENS ALLIANCE  
Betsy Leonard, Battlement Mesa  
RIDGWAY-OURAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
Al Lowande, Ridgway  
UNCOMPAGRE VALLEY ASSOCIATION  
Kevin Kuns, Montrose  
WCC OF MESA COUNTY  
Andrea Krieves, Grand Junction

#### Director Emeritus

Peggy Rawlins, Grand Junction



# Battlement residents rise to defend community rights

by Joel Dyar, WCC Organizer

When Ursa Resources came forward with one of the most aggressive fracking proposals ever witnessed in Colorado, WCC's local affiliate Grand Valley Citizens Alliance and its committee of Battlement Concerned Citizens were there to meet them. When Ursa proposed the construction of a fracking wastewater injection well within 500 feet of Battlement Mesa homes, 660 feet from the Colorado River, and 900 feet from the community's water treatment facility, BCC and GVCA were there to defend their neighbors.

Throughout the fall, BCC and GVCA members spent hundreds of hours knocking doors in neighborhoods, hosting

community meetings, and inspiring Battlement Mesa residents to action.

In September, it quickly became clear that Ursa had the eager support of the Garfield County Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of County Commissioners, and county staff, and was playing loose with its regulatory obligations.

BCC and GVCA were there to win temporary rejection of Ursa's state application when the company failed to respect resident rights with proper notification of its plans.

Locals were there to empower residents nearest to the proposed development to learn about their legal options. And locals were there to energize dozens of their neighbors to speak before county hearings.

Battlement Mesa residents won support from across the Western Slope and around the state, garnering coverage in the *Denver Post* and a supportive editorial from the *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel*.

Yet this community upwelling was unable to deter the Garfield Board of County Commissioners from approving Ursa's invasive proposal in November. BCC and GVCA did win stringent operating conditions and requirements, fighting back an attempt from Ursa to roll back protections and monitoring requirements.

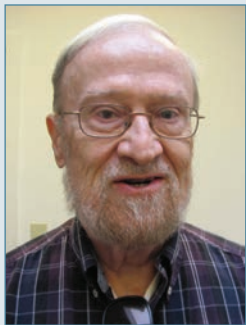
The fight for neighborhood protections continues, in Battlement Mesa and across the state. With Ursa's proposed fracking wastewater injection well lying so close to residential

homes, the company must seek a special exemption from the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission setback rules. BCC and GVCA are working to ensure that a full COGCC hearing is held and that the due process and rights of communities and families are upheld.

Across Colorado communities are working together to re-balance the scales between landowners, residents and industry, and this hearing will focus statewide attention on the issue of "residential drilling". Although it is a David vs. Goliath struggle, this fall, Battlement Mesa sent a clear message that the communities, environment, and health of the Western Slope aren't for sale. Stayed tuned for new developments in 2018!

## Remembering Paul Light

Paul Light of Parachute passed away August 8 surrounded by his family. Paul and Bobbie, his wife of 61 years, moved to Colorado from Pennsylvania in order to be closer to their family. Paul was retired at the time of their move but a dedicated volunteer.



Paul Light  
1932 - 2017

active in a number of other community organizations.

In nominating Paul for WCC's Worley Award for Outstanding Volunteers in 2012, WCC staffer Frank Smith noted, "Paul's tempered approach has built bridges with uncommon allies in local water and air quality initiatives; his common sense attitude helped kick-start the groundbreaking Battlement Mesa Health Impact Assessment; and his scientific background has proven invaluable to WCC's push for responsible energy development. He has testified in Denver, lobbied lawmakers, and stood before hundreds of angry coal miners to declare climate change is real."

Paul served on WCC's Board of Directors from 2009 to 2012, as well as being on the board of Grand Valley Citizens Alliance and Battlement Concerned Citizens. He was also very

## Creating a portrait for immigration reform

*Continued from page 1*

the U.S. as children.

WCC co-sponsored the Inside Out event together with the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, Hispanic Affairs Project and Organizing For Action Grand Junction.

The outdoor photo display, will remain in place for several weeks, and is hosted by FACTORY (750 Main Street, Grand Junction) and the Emerson Collective.

Following the event, several members of WCC hand-delivered more than 300 signed postcards to Congressman Tipton's Grand Junction office. These postcards were signed at various events over the

past few months throughout five counties, and urge Congressman Tipton to support the passage of Clean Dream Act before the end of the year.

If Congress doesn't pass the Dream Act soon, these young people could be arrested, jailed, and deported out of the only country they have ever known. Our voices can help to change that by urging our U.S. Senators and Representatives (like Tipton) to support a clean Dream Act.

Colorado's US Senators Michael Bennet (D) and Cory Gardner (R) have already pledged support for such legislation. However, US Rep. Scott Tipton (R), who represents Western Colorado, has not.

## Principles of Community Organizing

March 21-24, 2018 ♦ Billings, Montana

**Grow your leadership skills and learn how to build political power in your community**

Take advantage of this chance to attend the Western Organization of Resource Councils' (WORC's) nationally recognized Principles of Community Organizing! The training is hands-on and participatory, and covers the basics of leadership development, grassroots fundraising, organizational capacity building and community organizing. The same training will be offered in July in Sioux Falls, SD; exact dates to be determined.

Tuition for pre-approved WCC members is \$100 (travel not included). Space is limited. Contact the WCC office at (970) 256-7650 or [info@wcccongress.org](mailto:info@wcccongress.org) if you're interested in attending.





# Mesa County to get third pitch on renewables program

by Jeriel Brammeier, Community Organizer

From Delta to Garfield County and Gunnison to Montrose County, communities across the Western Slope have been opting into C-PACE! Through their efforts to promote the program, WCC's affiliate groups are finding common ground with county commissioners. WCC of Mesa County, however, remains left behind with hesitant commissioners who have voted against adopting C-PACE twice in the past year.

The state of Colorado's C-PACE (Commercial Property

Assessed Clean Energy) program gives commercial property owners access to affordable, long-term financing for smart energy upgrades to their buildings. County commissions must first officially "opt in" to the program before it is available locally, which is where WCC's local affiliates have been playing a role in demonstrating local support.

Energy efficiency upgrades include lighting, heating and cooling systems; insulation, water pumps and motors; solar panel and fuel cell installations; and water consumption reduction measures.

A recent event in Mesa County

hosted by E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs), with organizing support from WCC, has reignited the conversation for C-PACE in Mesa County. On November 11, E2 hosted a Lunch & Learn panel with business leaders in Mesa County to share its 2017 Clean Jobs Colorado report. E2's report showed Mesa County among the top 10 counties in Colorado for clean energy jobs.

The panel at the event was made up of local leaders who highlighted clean energy efforts in our area, and discussed future opportunities including C-PACE. Once the conversation turned to C-PACE, it remained there for

the majority of the event.

Of the almost 50 attendees, many offered to help push C-PACE forward in Mesa County.

WCC of Mesa County's Clean & Renewable Energy Committee is excited to lead this effort once again, and work with local business and building owners to bring C-PACE to Mesa County.

If you are interested in getting involved please contact [jeriel@wccongress.org](mailto:jeriel@wccongress.org). And if you would like to learn more about E2 and its Colorado Clean Jobs report, go to [www.e2.org](http://www.e2.org).

# Air quality doesn't recognize political boundaries

by Reed Kelley, WCC Vice President (Originally printed in the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, 11/12/2017)

Western Slope air quality issues have been a hot topic this fall. From attempts to delay federal protections to decisions in both Colorado and Utah, the question of how we best protect our air resource is being debated from Rangely to Washington, DC.

In D.C., Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke continues his attempts to roll back and amend the Bureau of Land Management's federal rules to reduce leaking and flaring of natural gas on our public lands, even though the U.S. Senate refused to do so.

[Editor's Note: On Dec. 7, the BLM issued a one-year delay in key aspects of its rule regulating methane emissions in oil and gas development.]

**"I live in Rio Blanco County, as rural as rural can get. My neighbors and I deserve the right to clean air as much as someone living on the Front Range."**

The Colorado Air Quality Control Division approved amendments to better address ozone on the Front Range, but refused to apply those rules to western Colorado. At the same time, the Utah Department of Air Quality has recognized the

need to address this issue and is working to reduce emissions in the Uintah Basin.

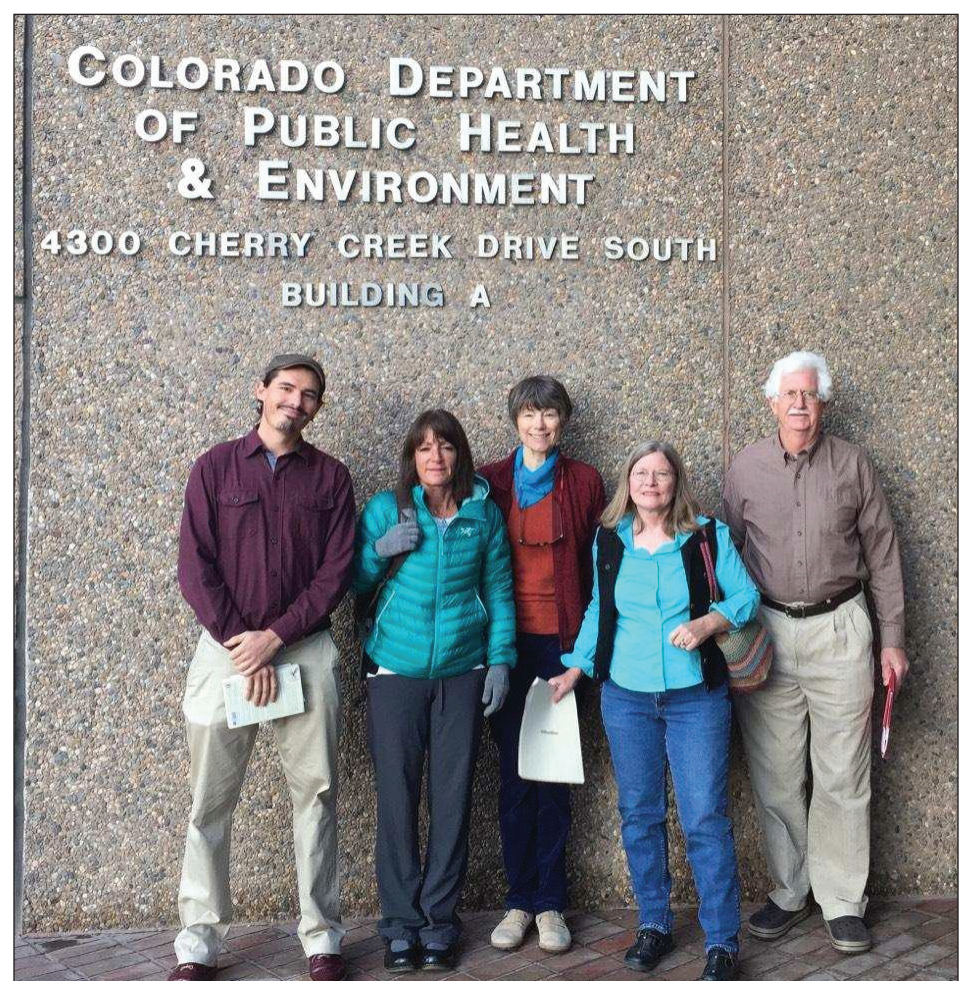
Given all this attention, the **main point is simple:** Our Western Colorado air needs to be recognized, valued, and protected at the same level as people living in more populated areas.

I am a resident of Rio Blanco County, as rural as rural can get. My neighbors and I deserve the right to clean air as much as someone living on the Front Range. Much of our economic activity depends on our outdoor resources for agriculture, recreation, and tourism.

Some insist that there is no need for better air quality protections in western Colorado and are glad to be considered separate from the Front Range. However, the west end of Rio Blanco County has already been out of compliance with EPA ozone standards more than once. We have received a failing grade from the American Lung Association for ozone pollution in recent years.

In Rio Blanco County, more than 570 people are reported to suffer from asthma and 300 people from cardiovascular disease, both of which are adversely affected by air pollution.

Like many people in northwestern Colorado, I am also an agricultural operator and am concerned about the impacts of air pollution. Ozone is particularly damaging to the agricultural sector, with demonstrated impacts on both



WCC, Citizens for Clean Air and Sierra Club members from Western Colorado traveled to Denver in October to support a push for new air quality protections for oil and gas emissions be extended to the entire state, not just the Front Range. In November, the state decided NOT to extend those protections. Pictured from left to right: Stephen Silveira, Diane Miller, Karen Sjoberg, Kathy Slaughter, and Charlie Post.

plant and livestock productivity.

Colorado has taken steps to address these issues and I applaud our Air Quality Control Commission for being a leader in this regard. **With Rio Blanco County receiving another failing grade for ozone in 2017, however, it is clear we have not resolved the problem.**

Much of this pollution comes from across state lines. I am encouraged that Utah is taking

steps to be a better neighbor.

Neither of these state actions can replace strong federal rules that reduce flaring, leaking and venting of natural gas across all our public lands. No one should be left behind when it comes to clean air, no matter where you live. I am glad federal courts have thus far agreed with me and struck down all attempts to repeal the BLM's methane waste reduction rule.



# Who's footing the bill for affordable housing?

by Christopher Pike, member of WCC and Ouray County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee

Any plans presently under consideration for a sustainable affordable housing program in Ouray County must include funding sources, according to Shirley Diaz, Executive Director of the San Miguel County Regional Housing Authority, who spoke at an educational forum held at the Ouray County 4-H Events Center in Ridgway on October 16.

The forum was hosted by the Ridgway-Ouray Community Council (ROCC), WCC's local affiliate, and the Ouray County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (OCAHAC).

ROCC members have identified affordable housing as an issue of local concern that they want to organize around.

Diaz said that whether affordable housing ever becomes available will most assuredly depend on the general public deciding what it wants to do regarding any subsidies and the type of funding sources to pursue.

"We need to figure out a funding source; even if it's not bringing in enough to build, it's got to bring in enough to leverage," Diaz said after her presentation.

The educational forum topic was "What It Takes to Buy or Rent A Home in Ouray County." A question and answer segment followed with the public invited to share what their needs are in obtaining housing.

The OCAHAC heard from several members of the public about the acute shortage of affordable rental housing in Ouray County and particularly Ridgway and Ouray. Public funding is needed, according to Ouray City Council and OCAHAC member Betty Maurer "There is a need for rental assistance. People in town can't afford it."

"And what is needed," Maurer added, "is the will to finance it."

There was some discussion about what it will take to fund a sustainable affordable housing program. Diaz said that the more common revenue options include mill levies, sales tax and real estate transfer taxes.

But transfer taxes were

banned in Colorado during the early 1990s, and it would require amending the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) to have it reinstated. That process would require a statewide constitutional amendment initiative.

**"We need to figure out a funding source; even if it's not bringing in enough to build, it's got to bring in enough to leverage."**

**Shirley Diaz, San Miguel Regional Housing Authority**

A transfer tax is still in effect in Telluride because it is grandfathered, having been the law before TABOR, and that stream amounts to about \$500,000 per year.

At the OCAHAC's November 16 meeting, ROCC asked the committee to consider recommending to the three jurisdictions – Ridgway, the City of Ouray and Ouray County – the enactment of requirements to address long-range needs for

affordable housing.

The recommendations call for a uniform percentage of new developments to be designated deed-restricted; that it be mandatory and possibly go beyond the current 10% that is normally negotiated; and that sunset language which imposes time limits for below market pricing on approved deed restricted homes be lengthened, possibly to perpetuity.

Historically, the maximum amount of time for price lids on deed restricted new properties that have been approved in Ridgway has been ten years. The City of Ouray approved a three-year limit for one developer several years ago.

ROCC also recommended that the committee consider a way to ask businesses entering the community to develop a housing plan for its employees.

Committee Chair Don Batchelder told the ROCC representatives present at the meeting that this topic will be discussed at its December 14 meeting, scheduled for 5:30 pm at the Ouray County land use building.

## WORC in search of homegrown stories

by Kevin Dowling, WORC staff

Active in the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) for more than 30 years, Mabel Dobbs has fought bankruptcy, pushed for fair livestock prices, supported country-of-origin labeling of meat, protested the North American Free Trade Agreement, and worried about the future of agriculture and her ranch.

Now, she's telling her story in WORC's new project, *Homegrown Stories: Farm and ranch families cultivating good food, healthy land and rural vitality.*

*Homegrown Stories* features WORC members who have organized to fight the corporate control and increased industrialization of U.S. food and farms. They are rebuilding local and regional food systems that sustain family farmers and feed local communities.

"When I married Grant, I looked at him and said, 'I don't understand this. How can you work all year long to raise and

**Homegrown Stories (HomegrownStories.org) launches in January 2018. WORC is heading to Colorado soon to capture stories from WCC members. For more information or to suggest someone whose story needs telling, contact Kevin Dowling at [kdowling@worc.org](mailto:kdowling@worc.org).**

grow your product, then go out on the market place and say, 'What will you give me for this?' Mabel said.

"I grew up in a banking industry where a producer figured their cost of production, added a profit, priced their product and said this is my price," Mabel continued. "But that's not the way it is in agriculture. One of the most frustrating things in being married to a rancher, and calling myself a rancher, is that fact —



WORC members Grant and Mabel Dobbs of Weiser, Idaho.

that I do not have that control."

*Homegrown Stories* leverages the power of stories to shift the false narrative that a corporate-controlled, industrialized food and farm system is inevitable, better for farmers and rural communities, and the solution to world hunger. The series offers a new narrative — one in which our food system is based on democratic values and honors the health of families, the land and rural communities.

Starting in January 2018, read these stories at [homegrownstories.org](http://homegrownstories.org) or look for links on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and WORC's website and newsletters.

*WORC is a regional network of grassroots community organizations including Western Colorado Congress. WORC helps its member groups succeed by providing training and coordinating issue work.*



# Reclaiming coal mines could boost local economies

by Rodger Carver, Nucla, CO  
(Originally printed in the  
Grand Junction Daily Sentinel,  
11/12/2017)

I'm a coal miner from Nucla where I work for Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation. We are currently reclaiming New Horizon North Mine.

In August of 2016 my co-workers and I were informed by Tri State Generation and Transmission that the Nucla station and its coal supplier, Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation, would shut down.

The shutdown is a result of a legal agreement between Tri State, the Environmental Protection Agency, Wild Earth Guardians and the National Parks Conservation Association over regional haze.

How we became collateral damage in this issue remains a mystery as our plant was one of the first circulating fluidized bed combustion systems in the United States, and is probably one of the cleanest burning coal plants in the country.

The result of this shutdown is 93 employees will lose their jobs and our county and local governments, schools and other public services that depend on tax money will be hard hit.

Recently, I was given the opportunity to go to Washington

to support the RECLAIM Act of 2017. [Note: This citizen fly-in was organized by WORC, WCC's regional parent group.]

If this bill becomes law, it would invest \$1 billion across the country in cleaning up abandoned coal mines and pollution in places with potential for new businesses. People like my coworkers and I with reclamation skills would get to work cleaning up those abandoned mine sites.

Maybe the best part of the bill is that it doesn't use any taxpayer money. There's a \$2.4 billion fund sitting in Washington that is intended to clean up these abandoned sites. Under current law, that would be spent after 2023. Under RECLAIM, we'd spend \$1 billion of it over the next five years, just as high-skilled coal workers across the country are looking for work in the rural places where we live. Colorado would see \$45 million over the next five years for abandoned coal mine reclamation.

There are currently 39 cosponsors of the RECLAIM Act in Congress. They come from all over the country, and they come – about equally – from both parties. We don't see a lot of that these days, but RECLAIM has true bipartisan support. It also



Rodger and Tina Carver from Nucla, CO (at right) flew to Washington D.C. to ask their Congressmen for support of the RECLAIM Act. The bill would help communities clean up abandoned coal mines and help revitalize local economies. Also pictured are Navajo Nation members Earl Tulley and Lori Goodman, leaders of Diné CARE (Citizens Against Ruining the Environment).

Many thanks to WORC for organizing WCC's participation in the fly-in!

has the support of my union, the United Mine Workers of America.

I'm not pretending that RECLAIM is going to solve all of our problems. Our economy is changing in Western Colorado. We have to figure out a way to diversify the local economy in communities like Nucla. But RECLAIM is a step in the right direction.

Some of our members of Congress already support the bill. Rep. Jared Polis is a

cosponsor. But those whose districts would benefit the most – like mine, represented by Scott Tipton – have yet to sign on. We'd love to see Mr. Tipton and the rest of the Colorado members of Congress support the bill when it comes to the House floor later this year.

Here in Western Colorado, we could use their help.

Rodger Carver is the president of UMWA Local 1281 in Nucla.

## THANK YOU!

Western Colorado Congress wishes to thank the following generous people and foundations who have made donations since our previous newsletter. We couldn't do it without you!

[Note: Monthly donors will be included in our next issue, based on their total giving for 2017]

### \$5000 and up

LP Brown Foundation  
Colorado Health Foundation  
Embrey Family Foundation  
Lynn Handleman Charitable Foundation  
Rocky Mountain Health Foundation  
WORC Education Project

### \$500-\$4999

Brad Armstrong and Julie Dolin  
Cyndi Clark  
Ron Binz and Mary Donahue  
Bob and Donna Green  
Jan Muyskens  
Eric Rechel  
Lynette Richardson  
Dana and Lindsey Thomas  
Anonymous

### \$100-\$499

Debra and Steve Allerton  
Larry and Ruthmary Allison  
Marilu Anderson

### Chuck and Robbie Breaux

Oni Butterfly  
Kevin and Joan Chismire  
Paul Douglas and Marion Stewart  
William and Jane Findlay  
Tim Garvey  
Wayne Goin  
Joanie and Harry Griff  
Penny and Cal Howe  
Sandy Jackson  
Cherie MacDonald and Kimberly Brown  
Gretchen and Robin Nicholoff  
Karen Sherman Perez and Ricardo Perez  
Walter and Hope Perrine  
Neal Platzer  
Terry Randall  
Laura and Paul Ricks  
Roasted Espresso & Subs  
David and Blanche Roberts  
Rein and Jan van West  
Lynda Walters  
Madeline Williams  
Jim Winzenburg

### Up to \$99

Tom and Diana Acker  
Fran and Ed Adams  
Arlene and Gene Albers  
Bob and Ann Arrington  
Rick Baer  
Nina Black  
Bennett Boeschstein and Elizabeth Rowan  
Scott Braden  
Dean Bressler  
Shara Brodbela  
Richard Buchan  
Dudley and Sharon Case  
Barbara and Ed Chamberlin  
Carole Chowen  
Kathryn Christian  
Cyndi Clark  
Dave Congour  
Mary Coombs  
Kevin and Kjersten Davis  
Lee Ann Eustis  
Emily and Jason Farrington  
Elizabeth and Dean Filiss  
Ann FitzSimmons and John

### Gould

Connie Giles  
Suze & Dick Gingery  
Bruce and Susan Gregg  
Bill Hamann  
Josh and Kate Holmes  
Stephen Hornback  
Barbara Hughes  
Richard and Jan Hyland  
Greg Jeung  
Ken Jones  
Reed & Kathleen Kelley  
Deb Kennard and Josh McDaniel  
Jon Kirkpatrick  
Albert Krueger  
Alicia Langton  
Betsy and Dale Leonard  
Eileen and Chris Lepisto  
Jeffrey Lukas  
Alex Marks  
Nick Massaro  
Karen Milbank  
Dean Moffatt  
Lindsay Murdoch

### Kathryn Mutz

Tom Oken and Janie Lowe  
Don Paulson  
Henry Perkins  
Chris Pike  
Anita Pisciotte  
Michael and Tena Price  
Kristin Pulatie  
Larry Quinn  
Ken and Emily Ransford  
Rachel Richards  
Sarah Shrader  
Jon Slone  
Monica and Bill Solawetz  
Stephani Soto  
Marion Stewart & Paul Douglas  
Jimmy Thomas  
Vicki Warner-Huggins  
Sylvia Wilhelm  
Kevin Williams and Brenda Bafus-Williams  
Ken Young and Karen Austin



# New database manager experienced with non-profits

Join us in welcoming Kelly Dougherty to the WCC staff team in Grand Junction! Kelly is well-qualified to step into a half-time position as our Database & Membership Coordinator. She has a background in nonprofit management, direct action and community organizing, as well as office administration.

Kelly is an Iraq veteran who served in the Colorado Army National Guard for eight years as a medic and military police sergeant. Upon returning from Iraq in 2004, she co-founded the nonprofit organization Iraq Veterans Against the War. She helped build this post-9/11 veterans' organization from seven members to over 1,500. She has been involved in all levels of leadership, including Board Chair and Executive Director.

Kelly also gained experience in office management and software implementation while working at Metropolitan State University in Denver and in the Human Resources Department at Colorado Mesa University.



Kelly Dougherty

Kelly has lived in Grand Junction since 2015, but grew up in Cañon City and previously lived in Colorado Springs and Denver.

Whenever possible, Kelly likes to explore the canyons, mountains, and rivers of the Southwest with her family and is looking forward to teaching her four year-old daughter to ski this year. She is grateful for the opportunity to support WCC as we continue to build community power and leadership to create healthy, just and self-reliant communities.

## Feasibility study underway for community center

by *Andrey Krievs, WCC Board rep for WCC of Mesa County*

The PLACE team is thrilled to announce the kick-off of a feasibility study for a community & recreation center for Grand Junction in early November. The study is slated to last about seven months and will provide a concept design, cost estimate, review of potential sites, market analysis, and citizen participation opportunities.

PLACE (People for Local Activities and Community Enrichment), which is part of WCC of Mesa County, is excited that this study will give us both the vision and the specifics we'll need to get a community & recreation center on a ballot for voters.

After a months-long process to select the right team to do the study, PLACE, the Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Department, and members

of the Parks and Recreation Board selected Ballard King and Sink, Combs, Dethlefs as the consulting and architecture firms that will lead the feasibility study.

We look forward to working with an experienced team who have studied, designed, and built community & recreation facilities all over Colorado and around the country.

The real work begins now. PLACE is ready to reach out to residents to listen, learn, and work together in this study to make a community & recreation center a reality for Grand Junction!

Keep your eyes on the facebook.com/GJCommunityCenter/ for updates on the study, as well as email announcements of public participation opportunities.

If you want to be more involved - email us at [gjcommunitycenter@wccongress.org](mailto:gjcommunitycenter@wccongress.org).

# WCC is hiring: Community organizer, office mgr

Looking for an exciting challenge and an opportunity to make change happen? Consider joining the WCC staff team!

WCC is advertising for a couple of full-time positions based in its downtown Grand Junction office: Community Organizer and Office Manager.

Complete details are available at [wccongress.org](http://wccongress.org), but here's a quick rundown:

## Community Organizer

As a community organizer, you won't be tied to a desk, you'll meet lots of people, and you'll make change happen at the grassroots level. Your role will be to bring people together to build their collective clout, to empower them to gain seats at the tables where decisions are made, and to train them to be not only campaigners but also leaders and potential decision-makers.

Specific duties include:

- Plan and implement strategy on issue campaigns

- Recruit new members
- Conduct issue-related research
- Participate in grassroots fundraising efforts
- Train members in activism skills
- Communicate clearly, both orally and in writing
- Plan and generate turnout for events
- Help members in their contacts with public officials and the media

## Office Manager

The Office Manager is an integral member of WCC's close-knit team, providing essential support to the program staff, especially the Staff Director. The ideal candidate will be someone with a demonstrated ability to work both autonomously and as part of a team, take on new challenges and problem-solve.

## Send us your application!

- Cover letter (tell us why you want the job)
- Current resumé
- Contact info for three professional references
- Additional short writing sample (Organizer position only)

Send application materials by December 31 to: [search@wccongress.org](mailto:search@wccongress.org). All documents should be in either Word (.doc or .docx) or as a pdf file.

Specific duties include:

- Answer telephone and greet all on-site visitors
- Ensure adequate office supplies are on hand, anticipating special projects
- Prepare weekly bank deposits as well as reports for online and recurring donations
- Manage print jobs and bulk mailings
- Work with tech support to ensure all office equipment is in good working order
- Serve as staff point person on all vendor relationships and contracts
- Recruit and supervise office volunteers for help with special mailings and other projects
- Manage WCC's email accounts and listserves
- Work as part of a staff team to organize and publicize WCC events
- Maintain current copies of organizational documents
- Assist Staff Director with oversight and maintenance of contracts and insurance as well as with conducting hiring processes
- Help Staff Director prepare informational packets for the Board; provide new Board and staff members with orientation materials
- Prepare monthly summary of staff timesheets and other data as requested by the Staff Director
- Make travel arrangements for other staff





# Your Concern, Your Community, Your Campaign

by Marie Mitchell, Development Coordinator

Because of you, Western Colorado Congress (WCC) has a proven record of bringing people together to build power through community organizing and taking action on issues that affect their lives, health and communities.

Our founding members formed WCC because individuals needed, and still do need, the tools to be an effective organized voice and to have an influential say on decisions and policies that impact Western Colorado.

The more core, sustaining supporters and members WCC can count on now and into the incredibly important months ahead, the more we can “go big” on your concern, community and campaign with accelerating success.

Right now, WCC is in the middle of its 2017 Year-End Fundraising Drive with a goal to raise \$40,000. WCC is funded by membership dues, voluntary contributions and private foundations. Funds raised in this drive increase our

long-term sustainability and help support those campaigns that matter to you, now and into the new year.

Would you be willing to make a special year-end gift of \$50, \$100, \$500 or another amount? We remain grateful for all of your support and can accept donations in a number of ways:

- Complete and mail the donation form below;
- Phone our office at **970-256-7650** with a credit card; or,
- Make a secure donation through our website at **wccongress.org**.

The articles in this newsletter demonstrate that you are powering a strong, strategically savvy member-led organization that succeeds in making real change happen both locally and statewide. A contribution to Western Colorado Congress is an investment in extraordinary impact for your concern, your community and for Western Colorado. **Give Now to Give More.** Thank you in advance for your support!

**Good News! Your donation given before Dec. 31 will double!**

**Several generous donors have offered a challenge to match your gift up to \$15,000!**

**Your \$100 becomes \$200!  
That \$15,000 becomes \$30,000!**

## Building power because of you. Thank you, our members and volunteers, for:

- Attending and testifying at public hearings
- Volunteering at – and attending – our events
- Meeting with local, state and federal officials
- Taking part in our surveys
- Rallying with our allies
- Speaking to media and the public on issues
- Organizing and carrying out campaigns
- Writing letters to the editor, to legislators, and to members of Congress
- Sharing our Facebook posts and following us on Twitter
- Talking to your friends and neighbors
- Asking someone to join WCC
- Reporting injustices when you see them
- Attending our Annual Conference
- Taking part in the work of your local affiliate groups
- Helping with mailings and data entry
- Knocking on doors for our campaigns
- Making donations that support our efforts
- Governing our organization
- Traveling long miles in all kinds of weather to strengthen our work

### My Concern, My Community, My Campaign

#### I want to join WCC (or renew my membership)!

- \$10 Student
- \$35 Individual member (\$25 limited income)
- \$55 Family member (\$35 limited income)
- \$100 Business or organization



#### I want to help even more!

- \$200    \$500    \$1,000    \$2,500    \$5,000    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I want to be a sustaining member – please bill my credit card \$ \_\_\_\_\_ /month.
- I'd like to learn about leaving WCC in my will or other giving options.
- I'd like to remain anonymous.

If you live in a county with a local WCC affiliate or check one of the boxes below, you will become a member of that group as well. (optional)

- Grand Valley Citizens Alliance (Garfield County)
- Ridgway-Ouray Community Council (Ouray County)
- Uncompahgre Valley Association (Montrose County)
- WCC of Mesa County (Mesa County)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- My check (or first installment) is enclosed.
- Please bill my  Visa  MasterCard  Discover  American Express.

Cardholder's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

**Western Colorado Congress**  
P.O. Box 1931, Grand Junction, CO 81502

Save a stamp – make your secure donation online at [wccongress.org](http://wccongress.org)!

#### Tell us about your interests:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clean energy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Social justice       | <input type="checkbox"/> Uranium mining & radioactive waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oil & gas drilling | <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable housing   | <input type="checkbox"/> Public lands & wilderness          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coal transition    | <input type="checkbox"/> Health care          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local foods & ag   | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic development |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air quality        | <input type="checkbox"/> Land use & growth    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water              |   |   |