



2018 Highlights

Western Colorado Alliance for Community Action brings people together to build grassroots power through community organizing and leadership development.

Goodbye, Congress. Hello, Alliance!

After 37 years with the name Western Colorado Congress, and after months of thoughtful planning, in June we changed our name to **Western Colorado Alliance for Community Action!** We also adopted new mission and vision statements. Our vision is:

We believe that right now, today, we have the ability and opportunity to create a future where engaged local voices are leading communities across Western Colorado that are healthy, just and self-reliant.

Here are some of the other highlights from 2018:

Grassroots Democracy

- Organized our annual People's Lobby Trip to Denver, in which members get to experience the legislative session first-hand. We tracked over 40 bills in the state legislature, with victories on rural broadband, hemp and rural economic development.
- Launched the Western Slope Youth Voter Initiative in which 30 student interns led peer-to-peer voter registration efforts in Mesa, Montrose and Garfield Counties. The Initiative not only increases our emphasis on civic engagement, but also creates a space where younger people can plug into our Alliance.

- Celebrated with our Youth Voter interns at Olathe High School who were the first to reach the goal of registering over 85% of their seniors to vote, and so receive the Eliza Pickrell Routt Award from Colorado's Secretary of State.

Protecting Air and Water Quality

- Protected the drinking water for 5,000 people in Garfield County by holding the line against

(over)



Interns in our Youth Voter Initiative launched their efforts by participating in the July 4th parade in Grand Junction.



Members gathered in front of the Mesa County courthouse in April to draw attention to the mounting cost of methane gas being wasted on public lands.

irresponsible oil and gas development in neighborhoods.

- Led efforts on the Western Slope to demand that air quality protections against oil and gas pollution are implemented statewide, not just on the Front Range.
- Successfully appealed the BLM's resource management plan for the Colorado River Valley based on its failure to adequately analyze the

climate impacts of its drastic expansion of oil and gas drilling.

Local Foods and Agriculture

- Met with consumers, producers and local food champions across Western Colorado to identify local food procurement opportunities in our local communities.
- Worked with farmers and ranchers across the Western Slope to ensure the passage of Farm Bill that supports local food and family agriculture, keeping a bad House bill at bay.

Public Lands

- Gathered over 60 letters of support from local businesses for the San Juan Wilderness Act, which was re-introduced in Congress in April.
- Organized widespread community support to protect the last remaining wilderness and roadless areas in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests.

Clean Energy

- Won approval for innovative state financing of clean energy projects in Ouray County, paving the way for businesses and multi-family properties to implement plans that improve energy efficiency and water conservation.

Western Colorado Alliance's Board of Directors & Staff

BOARD

Steve Allerton, President
(Grand Junction)

Reed Kelley, Vice President
(Meeker)

Shari VanderVelde, Secretary
(Grand Junction)

Dudley Case, Treasurer
(Ridgway)

Andrey Krieves
(Western Colorado Alliance
of Mesa County)

Kevin Kuns
(Uncompahgre Valley Alliance)

Betsy Leonard
(Grand Valley Citizens Alliance)

Al Lowande
(Ridgway-Ouray Community Council)

Rick Baer, At large
(Grand Junction)

Rodger Steen, At large
(Steamboat Springs)

Monica Wiitanen, At large
(Paonia)

Peggy Rawlins, Emeritus
(Grand Junction)

STAFF

Emily Hornback
Staff Director

Jeriel Clark
Leah López
Troy Redding
Community Organizers

Stefanie Harville
Office Manager

Kelly Dougherty
Membership & Database

Brenda Bafus-Williams
Communications Coordinator

Western Colorado Alliance for Community Action

134 North 6th St. / P.O. Box 1931, Grand Junction, CO 81502

(970) 256-7650 ♦ WesternColoradoAlliance.org ♦ Staff emails: [first name]@WesternColoradoAlliance.org