It was hard to say goodbye to our beloved spot on 6th Street. But the time had come.

With the addition of new staff members in January, the Western Colorado Alliance offices at 134 North 6th Street had grown too cramped. It was starting to interfere with our ability to fulfill our mission. So our Alliance’s Operations and Development Coordinator Stefanie Harville set to finding office space which could accommodate both our budget and our growing spatial needs.

After a long and difficult search, she found it at 2481 Commerce Boulevard, near Barnes & Noble and West Star Aviation. While the new neighborhood isn’t quite as picturesque as our old location, our new site offers ample room to grow over the next few years while the Alliance formulates long-term goals and plans for the future.

Please come visit us in our new digs. We’d love to give you the tour. An official open house is planned. Stay tuned!

A new day for oil and gas in Colorado

By Troy Redding
Community Organizer

On April 16, Governor Polis signed the Protect Public Welfare Oil And Gas Operations (SB19-181) into law. This new law restructures the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) and prioritizes Colorado’s public health, safety, and environment over short term financial gains. Western Colorado Alliance has worked for decades to prevent irresponsible oil and gas development. We are now looking forward to a future in which the COGCC regulates the oil and gas industry instead of fostering its development.

As a result of the restructuring of the COGCC, people living in Western Colorado can expect to see a number of positive changes in their local communities. SB19-181 grants local governments greater authority to regulate the oil and gas industry within their jurisdiction. These communities will be able to use their new authority to minimize the oil and gas industry’s negative impacts on public health, safety, wellness, and the environment. Additionally, oil and gas operators along with local governments can now request that the COGCC director evaluate specific leasing applications. COGCC director Jeff Robbins will also be given a brief opportunity to review contentious oil and gas leases that were approved just prior to the passage of SB-19-181.

This restructuring of the COGCC will professionalize the commission and change the makeup of the commissioners themselves. Before SB19-181 became law, three out of the nine commissioners had significant experience working in the oil and gas industry. Now that this bill has become law that

Continued on page 7
Noble failures and hard-won victories

by Steve Allerton
Alliance President

I’m always appreciative of my morning walks to the compost pile. On early spring mornings, I dig into it and watch the steam rise, feel the warmth enfold my hands, and breathe deeply the sweet smell of the earth. Recently, I had the opportunity to share this experience with my seven and four year old grandsons. They were briefly amazed and puzzled over how their banana peels had transformed into this rich, dark substance.

I find much to celebrate as I watch and experience the growth of Western Colorado Alliance. I marvel at all of the people who commit time and resources to being the change they want to see in the world. While disappointed with recent election results in Mesa County in regard to the Community Center, the campaign effort was as good as it gets. The energy, the passion, the “grassrootedness,” are all things we can be proud of.

The passage of SB19-181 and putting the health and welfare of those impacted by oil and gas development is a great achievement. Personal and remote testimony from our staff and members certainly presented a common front and helped assure the passage of this bill. The CORE and RECLAIM Acts continue to move forward and will make a significant impact on all citizens of Colorado while protecting its sacred places.

None of this is possible without the strong and persistent presence of our members. Our Alliance is in the fortunate position of being fully staffed with capacity to focus not only on issues but our membership. During these early summer months, our Alliance embarked on a “membership drive” with the goal of engaging our current and lapsed members and bringing in new folks as well. With your help we can continue to grow and impact the issues we care about on the Western Slope.

As I toured our new location, the excitement, energy, and optimism about the future of Western Colorado Alliance and the momentum that has been created is clearly evident. We are a “coming together” and layering of diverse elements, strengths, and talents, the product of which is transformative.

The Community Center: In loss, there is achievement

by Jeriel Clark
Community Organizer

Sometimes you lose. A decade of working on political campaigns in rural western Colorado has taught me that. But even in loss, there can be great achievement, and the campaign for a Community Center in Grand Junction was a shining example of exactly that. The GJ Community Center campaign raised the bar for expectations of what local campaigns should look like – brought forward, led and championed by local residents. A true grassroots effort.

Nearly 17,500 voters turned out to vote in the 2019 Grand Junction Municipal election, and no candidate or issue was more popular than Measure 2C for the GJ Community Center. Love it or hate it, voters knew it was on the ballot and had an opinion.

This was in large part due to the efforts of the more than 135 individuals who volunteered their time with the campaign, many of them members of Western Colorado Alliance, and for that we want to express our gratitude.

Community Center Volunteers were full of passion, some knocking every day, some every weekend, and others staffing an office for the campaign open 7 days a week. In just three months, volunteers knocked on 13,900 doors and engaged in nearly 5,000 conversations. And while only 48% percent of registered voters in the city of Grand Junction turned out to vote, of the folks we had an opportunity to have conversations with at the doors, 74% of them voted. The impact volunteers left was not only a heightened awareness of the need for a Community Center in Grand Junction, but also a far increased likelihood for someone to vote.

Ultimately the campaign was not successful, and it’s difficult to pinpoint exactly why. There were mistakes made by the city as well as perceived competition.

The city added two additional tax question measures in the last possible days, one for transportation and one for fire and police. These two measures essentially created an “either / or” mentality, painting the Community Center as less of a need in the community. At fate of a coin toss, it also sent Measure 2C for the Community Center

Continued on page 8

Western Colorado Alliance
brings people together to build grassroots power through community organizing and leadership development. Our Alliance’s vision for the future is one where engaged local voices are leading communities across Western Colorado that are healthy, just and self-reliant.
CORE update

by Leah López
Community Organizer

The Colorado Outdoor Recreation & Economy (CORE) Act passed through the House Natural Resources Committee June 24!

Bill sponsor Rep. Joe Neguse showed tremendous leadership and confidence in the details of proposed areas due in large part to boots-on-the-ground collaborative efforts throughout the state. This is a big win for our members who have been working on protections and additional wilderness in the San Juan Mountains for decades. The CORE Act heads to a floor vote in the House and a strong showing of grassroots support remains vital.

You can help today by writing letters to the editor of your local newspaper in support of CORE, and contacting Senator Cory Gardner (202-224-5941) and Representative Scott Tipton (202-225-4761) and urging them to support the bill.

Our Alliance is deeply committed to the passing of the CORE Act and will continue to work with our members to make this decade-long effort a success. Thank you to all of you who have gotten us to this point!

A conversation with Mayor John Clark

As mayor of Ridgway and one of the Western Coloradans who delivered postcards to legislators supporting protection for the San Juan Mountains in April, John Clark is uniquely positioned to discuss fighting for public lands. We sat down to chat with John in May, and this was our conversation:

Over the past 20 years you’ve held positions on the Ridgway Town Council, Planning Commission, and most currently Mayor. How have you experienced the evolution of San Juan wilderness proposals throughout that time? And how have you seen the impacts of Western Colorado Alliance members in this work?

Town Council has supported the San Juan Wilderness, in all its forms, for well over a decade now. I think local activist Jim Stephenson definitely deserves a shoutout for shepherding the effort for many years. WCC, now WCA, has undoubtedly been a major contributor to the effort to get the Wilderness finally designated.

Rural communities across the Western Slope are working to develop diverse and vibrant economies. What are two ways the passage of the CORE Act would support a healthy economy in Ridgway?

I believe anything we can do to preserve and protect our natural resources will obviously have diverse benefits for centuries to come. Ridgway’s economic vitality relies heavily on the natural beauty that surrounds us, and responsible outdoor recreation is a huge, and rapidly growing, side benefit. This will only expand if we can get the CORE Act across the finish line. Also, in light of climate change and its obvious and direct impact on things like Ridgway’s water supply, anything we can do to further protect our water source is critical.

The delegation that traveled to D.C. for the hearing included County Commissioners, Outdoor Rec industry leaders, and other elected officials from across the state. Why was it important for you to go and represent your community?

I feel incredibly fortunate and humbled to have been able to join that effort. It was an eye-opening experience, to say the least. Despite the archaic and hierarchical nature of the process in D.C., it was abundantly clear that it makes a huge impression when groups of elected officials make the effort to show up and (attempt to) meet with our Senators and Representatives. It doesn’t go unnoticed, whether we actually get to meet with them or not.

Describe a particular highlight or unexpected moment of your time in Washington, D.C.

I would say the highlight of our visit for me was to get a private after-hours tour of the Capital with Rep. Joe Neguse. It was an amazing experience, getting to see the seat of our government, “up close and personal” like that, and Rep. Neguse was an unbelievably engaged and gracious host. A side highlight was the fact that one of our Capital Police escorts was a surprisingly knowledgeable source of little-known facts and tidbits throughout the tour.

I believe anything we can do... will obviously have diverse benefits for centuries to come.

The management, use and stewarding of our public lands can often be a divisive topic. How have you witnessed your community coming together to have these conversations? What challenges still remain?

We obviously live in divisive times, and Ridgway is no exception. I’m encouraged, however, that for the most part, our community is in agreement about the value of our public lands, and despite disagreements over some of the finer details, there is almost universal agreement that passing the CORE Act is a good thing for our region.

The biggest challenge is overcoming the misinformation coming from some on the other side, about the details in the San Juan Wilderness, as well as other aspects of the Act. Unfortunately, some groups are claiming things that are wildly inaccurate, for example, that many of our iconic jeep roads would be closed by the Act, which is obviously untrue.

As the CORE Act makes its way through legislative processes at the federal level, what’s the most important action members can take right now to make an impact?

We simply need to keep up the pressure on Representative Tipton and Senator Gardner to support the Act. Opposing important legislation like this, in the works for decades, and of obvious benefit to their constituents, cannot be allowed to continue simply because the Democrats are backing it!
The Clarion Summer 2019

Quantity   Amount
________ Adults (includes lunch) at $35 each =  ________
________ NEWBIES @ $25 each   = _________
(If you’re NEW to our Alliance OR if you’re a member bringing a NEW person, you can both register for $25 per person!)
________ Kids under 12  = FREE
________ Pay It Forward scholarships at $35 each (see page 4) - ________
TOTAL =  ________

Name(s) _________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________
Email ____________________________________________________
Please bill my □ Visa □ MC □ Discover □ AmEx
Card no.:  __________________________________ CVV: _________
Exp. Date: __ __/__ __ Phone ________________________________

LUNCH will be served buffet style and prepared gluten-free.
This registration includes _____ (8) vegetarians.

DAYCARE Let us know if you need access to free daycare in order to attend. Please indicate the age of your children.

Workshop Block 1  2 pm
Under the Canopy; Capitol Confidential
Join our state capitol liaison Sol Malick for an in depth look at the outcomes of the 2019 legislative session. And looking ahead we’ll discuss our Alliance’s recently debuted Legislative Scorecard as well as a look ahead for next year.

ARTivism: Growing Our Creative Toolkit
Throughout the history of social movements, art and the creative process have played a central role in inspiring and manifesting social change. From music to theatre to posters and more, creative tools can be a key ingredient to any campaign. Come learn some basic creative tools to integrate into campaign planning and discuss how we can use them in our Alliance’s collective work.

Workshop Block 2  3:45 pm
From Sprouts to Trees: The Youth Voter Initiative
Join interns of the Western Slope Youth Voter Initiative as they debut their Rural Youth Issues report. They’ll also share some of what they’ve learned in their first forays into grassroots democracy.

Cultivating Climate Leaders
The first in a series of workshops on the intersection between public lands management and climate change. Learn how to be a confident and effective spokesperson to influence decision makers. Facilitated with staff from the Wilderness Society.

Adjourn & Happy Hour  5:30 pm

THE DAY AT A GLANCE

DOORS OPEN
9:30 am
Sign in, snag a donut and coffee, check out the displays, and visit with friends, old and new.

BUSINESS MEETING
10 am
Reports, elections and small group discussions (See details on pg 5.)

LUNCH
12 noon
Welcome from Emily Hornback, Staff Director
Rising Star and Worley Awards
Turning Over a New Leaf: The Many Faces of Homegrown Prosperity
Panel Discussion with Kathryn Bedell, Jose Chavez, Mona Highline, and more

BREAKOUT SESSION PREFERENCES
(see page 4)
2:00 pm: Block 1
_____ Capitol Confidential
_____ ARTivism

3:45 pm: Block 2
_____ From Sprouts to Trees
_____ Cultivating Climate Leaders

Register at our website (WesternColoradoAllliance.org) or mail this form to:
Western Colorado Alliance
PO Box 1931
Grand Junction CO 81502

OUR KEYNOTE PANELISTS

Kathryn Bedell
Kathryn is currently the Agriculture Commissioner for District 4 in Colorado. She is a founder of the Mountains West Livestock co-operative and, as owner of Roan Creek Ranch, has unique insight into the problems and opportunities of local food production.

Jose Chavez
Jose is a Regional Associate with the Colorado Trust. He has decades of experience working with juveniles in law enforcement and in his capacity as a minority advocate. He enjoys fishing, hiking and being in the outdoors. Jose resides in Fruita with his spouse.

Mona Highline
Mona is a founder of the Joseph Center, a Grand Valley volunteer-based not-for-profit organization devoted to helping homeless families. She has also been a minister and worship leader and lives in Grand Junction.

WITH OTHER GUESTS TO BE ANNOUNCED!

PLEASE REGISTER BY AUGUST 17

Our Alliance’s 39th Annual Conference
We believe that with love, attention, and hard work at the root of all we do, safe, healthy and self-reliant communities can blossom!
The Western Colorado Alliance Draft Platform of 2019

From 1983 through 2017, Alliance members adopted resolutions at our annual conference to shape the organization’s policy and issue work. While the resulting 100+ resolutions covered a wide range of topics, they did not easily convey our values and purpose which are bigger and more inspiring than any one issue or position.

At our 2016 annual conference, we adopted a resolution to transition from this resolution-based process to a platform which would be reviewed and reaffirmed each year. An ad hoc committee of the Board of Directors is submitting the following platform for initial approval at this year’s Business Meeting on August 24.

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

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

We believe in an authentic GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY where each one of us has an equal right and opportunity to impact public decisions that affect our lives, and where government is open, honest and responsive to the needs of the people. More specifically, we support:

- Reducing the influence of moneyed interests in elections and the legislative process.
- Fair representation practices (e.g., in drawing legislative district boundaries and in reforming the Electoral College) and the protection of individual voting rights.
- The protection of a free press as an integral part of any democracy.

We believe in the inalienable right of individuals and communities to a CLEAN AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT including air, water, land and food supplies. More specifically, we support:

- Policies, regulations and practices that minimize the environmental, economic and social impacts of climate change.
- The protection of the world's water quality, its availability and the integrity of aquatic ecosystems.
- The protection of our air quality, including the reduction of toxic emissions and those that contribute to climate change.
- The principles of "reduce, reuse and recycle" to conserve the world’s limited resources and limit the harmful effects of production and disposal of consumer products.

We believe in SOCIAL JUSTICE that respects human and civil rights, uplifts all people to their potential and values everyone’s participation in their communities and in decision-making processes. Our belief in Social Justice requires us to not only support equitable policies but also to eliminate existing systems of oppression. More specifically, we support:

- Systems that equitably value the contributions and dignity of all workers, including the right to collectively bargain, substantial paid family and medical leave, and an adequate living wage.

A comprehensive approach to creating health equity that encompasses a wide range of social and economic factors such as education, social welfare, housing, income, environmental conditions and universal access to health care.

Environmental justice policies that protect poor and minority communities from bearing an inordinate burden on their health from industrial development.

Comprehensive and thoughtful reform of our nation’s immigration policies.

We believe in HOMEGROWN ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, reflected in a Western Slope that is home to diverse and resilient local economies that work for all of us while protecting the natural environment that makes our communities desirable places to live.

Note: The Alliance is hosting a series of workshops between now and the Annual Conference to develop guiding principles for this campaign. Therefore, specific points under this plank will be developed after these workshops.

We believe our communities have exciting opportunities to shape A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE. We believe we can substantially reduce energy usage and, through the use of clean and renewable sources, reduce air pollution, eliminate the harmful effects of fossil fuel extraction, create new jobs and industries, and lessen our contribution to climate change. More specifically, we support:

- Governmental policies that provide incentives for clean energy projects, and regulations that require/encourage energy conservation and efficiency practices in homes, transportation and industries.
- Restructuring/scraping of utility contracts that are prolonging fossil fuel use and discouraging increased renewables.
- Regulation of public utilities in a manner that protects both consumer interests and environmental sustainability.

We believe that PUBLIC LANDS are one of the best ideas our country has ever had. These lands support healthy wildlife populations and their habitat and forests crucial to the health of our atmosphere. They protect the headwaters of many vital watersheds and provide the safest refuge for essential biodiversity. These lands also sustain a strong and growing outdoor recreation economy that enhances everyone’s quality of life and nourishes the future ahead for our alliance, and my passion for grassroots organizing, in helping our Alliance reach its future goals.

Kevin Kuns Nominated for VP

This year, our Alliance’s Nominations Committee is putting forward only one candidate: Kevin Kuns for Alliance Vice President.

Kevin worked as an executive in the restaurant industry for 28 years. For the last 16 years, he has served as president and principal of his own executive management search firm. He and his wife, Bobbie, moved to Montrose five years ago. Kevin is co-chair of the Wyoming Fallen Hero Scholarship Fund and a member of the newly organized Montrose County Commissioners Advisory Board, and the board member of WCA representing the Uncompahgre Valley Alliance. Kevin and Bobbie enjoy spending time in Colorado’s great outdoors and have run nine-and-a-half marathons and two 180-mile relays.

Both Kevin and Bobbie have made a significant commitment to being more involved in social and environmental issues that will affect the quality of life for our children and grand-children. Their values align with the new mission, vision, and Leadership platform of Western Colorado Alliance. “I look forward to the exciting...
Tri-State reform and the battle for clean energy in rural Colorado

by Joel Dyar
Community Organizer

1.3 million rural consumers across Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Nebraska depend on the Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association for their power. The Tri-State utility is indispensable to the economic and environmental future of many of our communities but has become the biggest barrier to clean and renewable energy development in rural Colorado.

At a time when wholesale electricity from Colorado wind and solar has dramatically crossed the cost-competitive threshold – when it can beat dirtier fuels like coal and natural gas on price alone – Tri-State is burdening dozens of Western Slope communities with high costs and dirty power.

Tri-State is an association of 43 rural electric associations, co-ops, and other entities – the local organizations which send you an electricity bill every month. In many cases, we are the legal owners of these organizations as member-costumers, with voting rights on major policy choices and the chance to elect a Board of Directors. Our local electric association or co-op then hires staff, contracts with suppliers for power, and develops its own local generation and transmission infrastructure on our behalf.

Tri-State faces significant challenges in providing power at competitive cost to so many rural areas, operating nearly 6,000 miles of transmission lines across the Rocky Mountains and plains. It has historically approached this challenge by relying on massive debt-funded investments in large coal plants and by requiring local entities to negotiate long-term contracts. A common contract by your local electricity association with Tri-State requires them to purchase 95% of all power from Tri-State, with a paltry 5% remaining for local power generation, such as renewables in your community, and for any purchase of cheaper power on the wholesale market.

This strategy is increasingly failing rural Colorado, as a study lead by former Colorado Republican State Senator Greg Brophy recently outlined. According to the study by Western Way, Tri-State is now charging 212% more for electricity than other regional wholesalers. From 2000 to 2016, it raised rates 12 times, doubling average energy costs, in order to pay its creditors. The Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA), a Tri-State consumer, saw its electricity rates grow 56% since 2005, prompting the Association to seek a contentious exit from its contract with Tri-State.

If Tri-State could magically expunge some of its debt-funded coal from our energy portfolio, new investments in wind and solar would save its consumers millions – $600 million by 2030, according to a Rocky Mountain Institute analysis. The organization is under mounting pressure from local electric associations to lower costs and give members greater flexibility to build local renewables beyond the common 5% cap. This year, Colorado lawmakers voted to give the Colorado Public Utilities Commission regulatory oversight over Tri-State and the utility will need to comply with ambitious new carbon emissions reduction goals passed at this same state legislative session.

There were important developments in this story at press time. Please visit our website (westerncoloradoalliance.org) for more information on what is shaping up to be a major front in the fight for clean energy.

RECLAIM Update

Alliance members Roger and Tina Carver from Nucla, CO traveled to Washington D.C. in June to lobby in support the RECLAIM Act and the extension of the Black Lung Excise Tax. Thanks to their efforts, Rep. Diana DeGette became the first Colorado co-sponsor of the RECLAIM Act, which would invest $45 million in our rural communities to clean-up abandoned coal mines and put miners back to work.

The Western Colorado Alliance Draft Platform of 2019

Continued from page 5

human soul. More specifically, we:

Insist that public lands STAY PUBLIC. Transfer of federal lands to states, or worse, private interests, compromises all of the values mentioned above.

Support responsible management of public lands that prioritizes ecological integrity and resilience of those lands.

Support maintaining the size and integrity of existing wilderness areas, parks and monuments along with connecting wildlife corridors, and extending such protections to other areas that have appropriate characteristics.

Insist on the involvement of First Peoples/Nations in the decision making for our public lands.

We believe that food production and marketing systems that prioritize LOCAL FOODS AND AGRICULTURE are best able to sustain healthy communities, protect the environment and safeguard the rights of farm workers. More specifically, we support:

An individual’s rights to be able to make informed food choices through improved labelling on how and where their food is raised and processed.

Livestock production systems that are as humane as possible and minimize the need for antibiotics and other chemical intervention.

A Farm Bill that includes the programs and policies prioritized by the WORC Farm Bill Platform.

International trade policies that strengthen human and environmental health, food sovereignty, workers’ rights and competitive marketplaces in all countries involved.

We believe that local communities should have a fair say in where, how, and if NATURAL RESOURCE EXTRACTION occurs in their area, and that when these economic activities are permitted, they should employ the best available technologies for protecting public and environmental health.

Specifically, we support:

Comprehensive bonding and reclamation fees so impacted areas can be restored as much as possible to their pre-development conditions.

Requiring royalty payments from private industry that reflect the full worth of the public resource being extracted or harvested.

Stringently enforced regulation of all extractive practices using evidence-based safety and environmental standards, including setbacks from industrial activities and the emission of contaminants to air and water.

Transparent and inclusive processes for decision-making that genuinely and adequately address the concerns of the community in the final decision.
Celebrating our members in 2019!

by Kelly Dougherty
Membership Coordinator

We want to give a huge, heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who became a new or renewing member during our membership drive in May and June. As part of our first membership drive in five years, Alliance members and staff called lapsed members, tabled at public events, and promoted membership with videos, social media posts, letters, and emails. We also gave everyone who joined or renewed during the drive a reusable cotton Alliance tote bag for all their toting needs. Thanks to our collective efforts, we had over 60 people and households become new or renewed members, surpassing our goal of 50 memberships.

Our members make our work and our accomplishments possible and, to celebrate everyone’s hard work and dedication, we capped off the membership drive with fun social events in Parachute, Grand Junction, and Montrose. In Parachute, Grand Valley Citizens Alliance hosted a potluck luncheon and game day. Congratulations to Dave Devanney, the reigning Pictionary champion! Uncompahgre Valley Alliance in Montrose hosted a Solstice Celebration at the Ute Indian Museum. In addition to sharing good food with good people, UVA members discussed the organizing work they’re currently engaged in, including plans to meet with over 200 people to identify their next campaign issue. In Grand Junction, Western Colorado Alliance of Mesa County hosted a barn dance and pie auction. Guests had a blast dancing to the music of local contra band Fifth Reel, feasting on a bountiful potluck, and bidding on delicious pies donated by members and supporters. We are so grateful to everyone who made our membership drive and celebratory events a success.

Thank you to all of our members and supporters who work hard every day to realize our vision of healthy, just, self-reliant West Slope communities. When we join together and organize around the issues that matter, we can make lasting change!

A new day for oil and gas in Colorado

Continued from page 1

number will be reduced to one. Replacing these two industry voices will be a commissioner with significant experience working as a public health expert, and a commissioner with significant experience working as an environmental expert.

Western Colorado Alliance is proud of the work we’ve done in helping to pass this bill. During our time protecting communities impacted by oil and gas, we’ve frequently buttered heels with the COGCC.

In our experience, the COGCC often functioned as an arm of the oil and gas industry instead of as its watchdog. While the passage of SB19-181 isn’t a solution to all of our oil and gas concerns, it’s certainly a good start. We’d like to thank all of our members and our affiliate groups for their hard work in getting us to this point. Grand Valley Citizens Alliance and Battlement Concerned Citizens (have been instrumental in helping us achieve this victory.

Additionally, we’d like to thank the Western Colorado Alliance’s Oil and Gas Committee.

These groups are comprised of astonishingly hard-working people who have sacrificed a lot of their personal time and effort ensuring that Colorado is a leader in responsible oil and gas development.

Since the passage of SB-19-181, Jeff Robbins has appointed temporary commissioners to the commission. The COGCC has also started the first (of approximately 12) series of rulemakings. Unfortunately, this rulemaking series was far more contentious than we had initially expected. The COGCC was somewhat unprepared for the volume of comments that they received throughout the process. As a result, they decided to postpone the rulemaking process. The rulemaking will continue during the next commissioner hearing on July 31.

We are thrilled to see this COGCC reform bill become law. That being said, we are getting ready for what appears to be a lengthy rulemaking process. It’s the goal of Western Colorado Alliance to ensure that the interests of Western Coloradans are represented during rulemaking. With the continued support of our allies, affiliate groups, and of course, our members, we look forward to protecting Western Colorado and supporting responsible oil and gas development.

Governor Jared Polis signed SB19-181 on April 16 of this year.

Clockwise from upper right: Beatrix Dougherty carries her Alliance tote bag with panache; our members enjoying some of the fine food at the Barn Dance potluck buffet; Carol Keeney and Marv Ballantyne of Uncompahgre Valley Alliance serenade the Solstice Social in Montrose; attendees at the Mesa County bash enjoy some good old-fashioned barn dancing; members of Uncompahgre Valley Alliance enjoying companionship and presentations at the Solstice Social; members of Grand Valley Citizens Alliance and Battlement Mesa Concerned Citizens celebrated with potluck and Pictionary.
Leslie Robinson: Always busy, always inspiring

by Troy Redding
Community Organizer

The Alliance would like to highlight the contributions made to Western Colorado by Leslie Robinson.

Leslie is the chair of the Grand Valley Citizens Alliance, one of the Alliance’s affiliate groups in Garfield County. Over the last few months, Leslie has been extremely busy working to pass sensible regulations of the oil and gas industry. During the most recent legislative session, Leslie worked hard to ensure that the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation reform bill would become law.

Leslie drove to Denver a number of times over the winter to testify in support of SB19-181. When she wasn’t spending late nights at the capital, she was educating the public about the bill and providing GVCA members opportunities to add their support as well. Leslie Robinson is passionate about her work in holding oil and gas companies accountable for their actions.

During the many years she has spent protecting the health and safety of rural Coloradans, Leslie has sacrificed a lot of her own time. Leslie has a heavier workload than would be required from a full-time job and she is constantly busy.

It would be impossible for the Alliance to do our oil and gas work without her. Western Colorado Alliance is proud to work with both Grand Valley Citizens Alliance and Leslie Robinson.

The people here at the Alliance are inspired by your example and your work. Thank you for all you do, Leslie!

Members in the Spotlight

Continued from page 2

to the back of the ballot. In addition to the added measures, it was discovered after ballots had been mailed out that there were errors in the language of all three tax questions, as written by the City. This put already weary voters on alarm and shifted the tide for the election.

Aside from the external factors, there was opposition to the Community Center itself. Generally supportive folks refused to vote for any tax increase until the local moratorium on recreational marijuana made it back to the ballot as an alternative form of revenue for the city. General lack of trust in government made some voters unwilling to commit to a building that would in essence be managed and operated by Grand Junction Parks & Recreation, and others still opposed a sales tax increase of any kind that would, at least optically, raise us to one of the highest taxed areas in the state. As for the Community Center plan itself, there was no plan that checked everyone’s boxes, but in general the biggest opposition seemed to be the location of the main facility set to be built at Matchett Park located near 29 Rd. & Patterson.

It’s likely the Community Center would have passed if a larger diversity of voters had turned out to vote in this election. When knocking doors, it was clear to our volunteers that our younger registered voters were most likely to support Measure 2C, but they weren’t the ones who turned out to vote. Only 25% of voters in the Municipal election were under 50, and of registered city voters age 30 to 49, only 32% voted.

So the big question is – will we try again? Personally I think we need to tackle some other issues before a Community Center is likely to succeed. Western Colorado Alliance, and our affiliate groups, work on issues important to our membership, as well as issues that are deeply and widely felt in the community. This campaign was born out of individual meetings with members and community residents that asked the question “What do we need to work on in Mesa County?” It’s time we ask that question again, and I could use your help. Did you support the Community Center, and is it something you want to see us continue to work on? If you didn’t, would you support it in the future if something was changed? Or maybe it’s time we focus our efforts elsewhere and on different needs in the valley. I’d love to hear your thoughts. Please get in touch with me and we’ll set something up! Contact me at jeriel@westerncoloradoalliance.org, and let’s move forward!

The Community Center: In loss, there is achievement

Western Colorado Alliance and our affiliate groups, work on issues important to our membership, as well as issues that are deeply and widely felt in the community. This campaign was born out of individual meetings with members and community residents that asked the question “What do we need to work on in Mesa County?” It’s time we ask that question again, and I could use your help. Did you support the Community Center, and is it something you want to see us continue to work on? If you didn’t, would you support it in the future if something was changed? Or maybe it’s time we focus our efforts elsewhere and on different needs in the valley. I’d love to hear your thoughts. Please get in touch with me and we’ll set something up! Contact me at jeriel@westerncoloradoalliance.org, and let’s move forward!

Members in the Spotlight

The Community Center: In loss, there is achievement

Western Colorado Alliance and our affiliate groups, work on issues important to our membership, as well as issues that are deeply and widely felt in the community. This campaign was born out of individual meetings with members and community residents that asked the question “What do we need to work on in Mesa County?” It’s time we ask that question again, and I could use your help. Did you support the Community Center, and is it something you want to see us continue to work on? If you didn’t, would you support it in the future if something was changed? Or maybe it’s time we focus our efforts elsewhere and on different needs in the valley. I’d love to hear your thoughts. Please get in touch with me and we’ll set something up! Contact me at jeriel@westerncoloradoalliance.org, and let’s move forward!