

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



**MOVING AT THE
SPEED OF TRUST**



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ARKCCL

empowerment | engagement | education | encouragement

Working Together to Build Civic Commitment for Climate Action & Justice

Arkansas Citizens' Climate League, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, empowers Arkansans to advocate for a healthy environment and climate change solutions through education, encouragement and engagement.

ARKCCL brings advocates, donors, students, community leaders and business together to make Arkansas a leader in the effort to protect the climate.

ARKCCL is committed to helping cultivate a society free of systemic oppression. With commitment to racial equity and social justice, there can be an equitable solution for ending carbon pollution and the climate crisis.

ARKCCL's major funding activities include our signature Arkansas Climate Accord in the spring and the Climate Change Costume Challenge in the fall. These activities provide the resources to fulfill our mission.

“ We understand that the world's climate crisis has and will directly impact communities of color. We also understand that, **as an environmental awareness organization, our aim must be rooted in justice.** We firmly believe and support solutions that center the needs of those communities that do the least amount of environmental harm, but are impacted the most by the harmful habits of those in power.”



Rev. Soniyah (Sonna) BKey
League Board of Directors Chair

Outreach in South Arkansas

The League facilitates dialogue with communities and individuals in southern Arkansas to hear concerns about the detrimental impacts of environmental and climate changes.

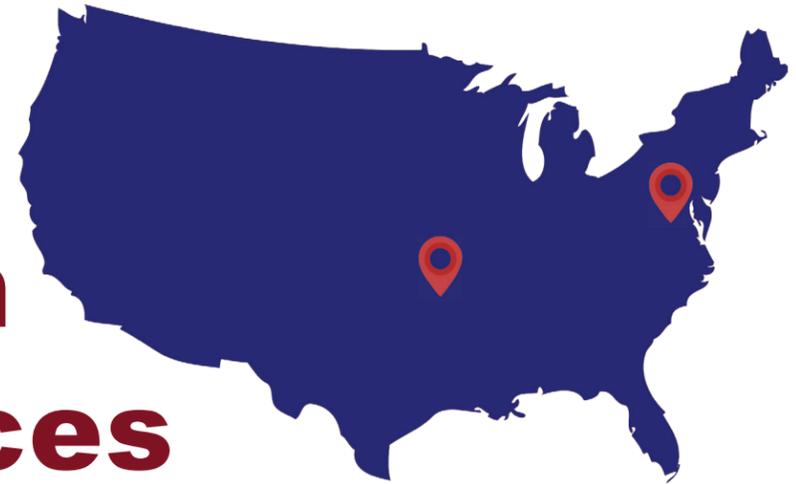
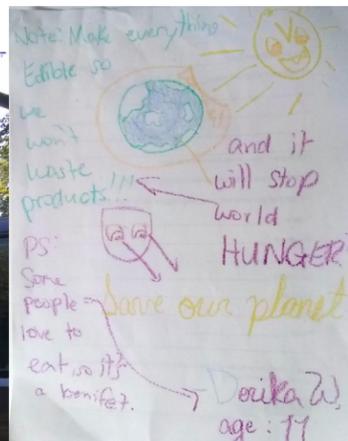
There's a saying in the social justice world: Move at the Speed of Trust. Founding Board Members of the League have worked to build trust between activities in Northwest Arkansas and the Delta. This has focused on building personal relationships, through working on shared goals and by providing educational opportunities.

In 2019, this ground work grew into new activities:



Gould 112th Anniversary Celebration

On August 3, the City of Gould celebrated their 112th anniversary. The League provided an information table and participating in the parade. Children participated in activities such as coloring a picture on why they love the earth.



Education Conferences

CCE Tornadoes Regional Conference in Fort Smith

The League provided 19 Registration and Lodging Scholarships to the two-day February 2019 CCE Tornadoes Regional Conference in Fort Smith.

Scholarship recipients were spread across the state. The scholarships facilitated climate and social justice advocates from across Arkansas to meet each other and to meet other advocates from neighboring states. The presentation by social and climate justice advocates from South Arkansas about the intersection between race, poverty and climate was cited by conference attendees as one of the most eye-opening and educational aspects of the entire conference.



Washington D.C. Conferences



In June, League Chair Sonna B. Key co-facilitated a three-hour session on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at the CCE Saturday Pre-Conference in Washington D.C.

The League provided 12 lodging scholarships and 6 travel scholarships to the D.C. Conference in June. The travel scholarships focused on students and advocates from southeast Arkansas, boosting emerging leaders and providing additional climate training to experienced social justice advocates.

In November 2019, the League provided 11 lodging scholarships and 8 travel scholarships to the CCE Education Conference. Our focus was on building climate leadership capacity in folks involved in the climate movement but not necessarily in leadership positions and in expanding our connections in the Marshallese Community.



Police & Community Engagement

The League works to build individual capacity by providing scholarships to conferences, facilitating connections and providing training.

In 2019, the League provided one-on-one support for local climate and social justice leaders through trainings on developing agendas, meeting facilitation and advocating with public officials. The League provided this service to Citizens' Climate Education (CCE) chapters

in Arkansas as well as to Police and Community Engagement in Fort Smith.

P.A.C.E. believes that moving forward starts with the conversations we have. Members talk through the tough issues and incidents that are facing our society, learning how to listen to different perspectives and be aware of their own biases.

For more information, visit PACE Fort Smith on Facebook.



Arkansas Climate Accord 2.0



Bridges to Climate Solutions

The Arkansas Climate Accord 2.0 events took place Saturday, April 27, 2019 in Jonesboro, Fort Smith, Little Rock and Fayetteville in partnership with local CCE chapters.

While actual turnout was smaller than in previous years, **there was a significant break through in business sponsorships and in-kind donations** thanks to the efforts of the League's resource development staff. A growing concern about climate

change and a desire to support local advocates likely also contributed.

- Partners: provided incentives**
- Sponsors: cash donations**
- Ambassador.....\$1,000**
- Minister.....\$750**
- Counselor.....\$500**
- Secretary.....\$250**
- Diplomat attaché.....\$100**

The Accord had four Partners, nine Ambassadors, two Ministers,

two Counselors, six Secretaries, 16 Diplomat Attaches, and 32 Gifts in Kind.

Reviewing Accord 2.0, inspired a three-year plan beginning in 2020 to focus the Accord in one location each year, moving throughout the state, to bring more local awareness and involvement in climate justice.

- 2020: Fort Smith**
- 2021: Pine Bluff**
- 2022: Jonesboro**



Climate Change Costume Challenge

The Second Annual Climate Change Costume Challenge yielded some very creative and fun entries! However, even with simplified online participation procedures, we did not garner the involvement for which we had hoped.

So, we are re-evaluating the costume challenge for 2020.

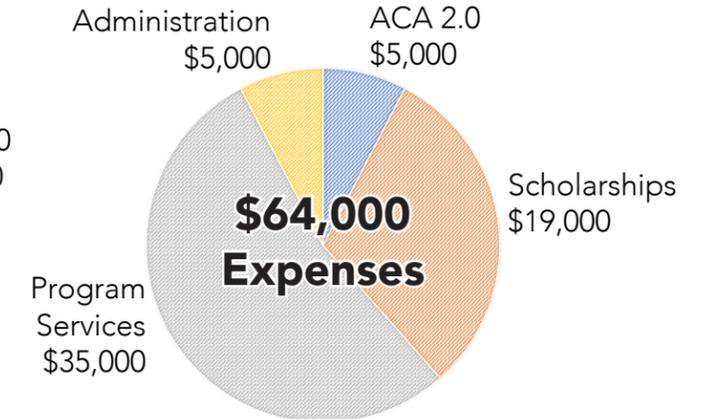
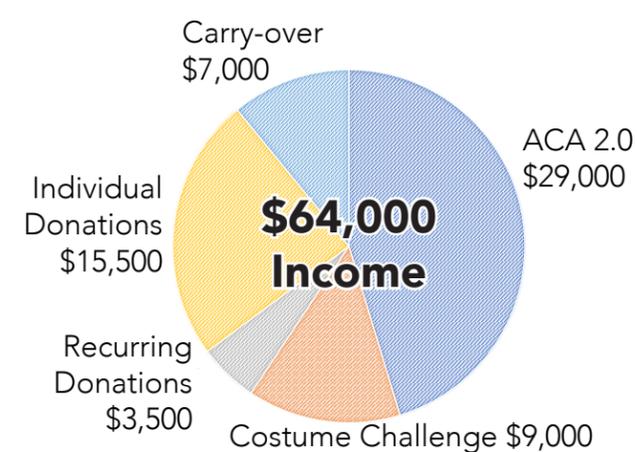
We challenged our followers and supporters to post a photo of themselves in a climate-change related costume and post it on Facebook,



Twitter, or Instagram, tagging Arkansas Citizens' Climate League with the hashtag #cli-

matechangeiscary2019 and the ARKCCL donation link to be entered to win a prize.

BY THE NUMBERS



Looking at 2020: Together Apart

As we were assembling the 2019 Annual Report, the global Covid-19 pandemic hit and created a new way of doing things.

With this new paradigm the League is thoughtfully assessing how we will continue to do the important work we do. Now more than ever, we must continue to ensure those living on the margins have a voice and safe place for dealing with the climate crisis and racial inequity. As our Chair said in 2018: “There are not a lot of organizations whose commitment to healthy environmental solutions are equal to cultivating a society that is free of systemic racism.”

Our 2020 focal points:

- Broaden connections in the Springdale Marshallese community to support local climate advocates
- Strengthen connections between



climate advocates in South Arkansas through regular discussions, shared online learning, and invitations to panels and virtual advocacy efforts

- Support our Marshallese climate advocates as they aid their community during the Covid-19 crisis
- Continue partnership with PACE and participation in Citizens’ First Congress
- Hold the Climate Accord 3.0 to build partnerships between busi-

nesses, donors, students, advocates and community leaders

Local Stories, Community Solutions Summer & Fall Series:

- Host online creative space for students to post climate story videos
- Host online conversation delving into the intersection between climate change, race and community wellness
- Host online panel focussing on agriculture and climate impact



“At the League, we measure our success in terms of trust, friendships and climate justice collaborations built over time across geography, across generations, across socio-economic status & race. Covid-19 has caused us to adapt our outreach plans, but our commitment remains the same.”

– Jan Schaper, League Education Coordinator