

2025 Annual ANSA Report



It has been a significant year for ANSA. With a growing volunteer base, experience, and financial resources, we are making substantive progress, not just building our organization. I could write a long report, but a short one is more likely to be read.

- We held [our 4th Dark-Sky festival](#), and while once again we had to resort to a rain date, which impacted attendance, over 500 people registered. The growing, committed Festival Volunteer crew is responsible for our success, with most of them there year after year. The total crew, over forty volunteers, is too numerous to name here, and I would doubtless result in one or more omissions if I tried, but we must note those who have been deeply involved in developing our program year after year, such as Laure Smith, Jeff Hoeper, Rocky Togni, Kathern Auld, and Kent Marts.
- Hot Springs, Arkansas, passed its first Outdoor Lighting Ordinance (OLO), thanks entirely to the work of Ned Skoog, who has worked on that goal for several years. Ned is also shepherding an effort by the students of the Math and Science High School in Hot Springs, who are committed to making their campus lighting Night Sky Friendly. Ned is also collaborating with the State Park Department and Dark Sky International in support of the Park Service's effort to get Mt. Magazine designated as a Dark Sky Park.

- Goshen, Arkansas, upgraded its OLO, which is now probably the most comprehensive in the state and almost mirrors ANSA's model ordinance. Thanks to Lisa Skiles for raising awareness with Goshen city government.
- Jennifer Keith is working to upgrade Springdale's OLO, and Mitch Mortvedt has been working to open doors to progress in the Searcy Co., among others.
- Our social media presence continues to grow thanks to Mae Bell Wilder, who keeps things informative and interesting – our [Facebook Group](#) now has 10,400 followers.
- We now have a [News element](#) on our website where FB posts and other announcements are displayed, and we have about 1700 subscribers to our email news service. Also, on the website, we have added a [Hall of Fame page](#) where people and places taking affirmative action can be recognized. Thanks to Linda Tuhacek for taking this on.
- Stella's Outdoor Lighting Academy, which is a unique traveling exhibit in the form of a 10'X15' popup tent that teaches visitors about the hows and whys of responsible outdoor lighting, made its debut at the Dark Sky Festival. This project is thanks to Gabi Korac, who designed the exhibits, and, along with Mae Bell Wilder and Bruce McMath, the tent graphics with images provided by Alan Wagoner, Paul Gibson, Keith Newton, and others. John Reed helped with some technical issues.
- Thanks to Katherine Auld and Kent Marts, the tent made its first deployment after the Festival at a Crystal Bridges event, and thanks to Karl Shultz, who has taken on the role of tent scheduling coordinator, the tent was deployed at the recent Municipal League event in Little Rock, where 107 municipal employees and officials toured the exhibit with the able guidance of Becky and Bruce McMath and Kent Myer. Kent is a particularly valuable asset for ANSA as a retired city manager and lifetime member of the League. We anticipate the tent appearing at several events this Spring, including the Toad Suck Daze Festival and the Little Rock Home and Garden Show, among others. If you know of events where the tent would be useful, please do write info@darkskyarkansas.org
- The Central Arkansas Library System adopted Dark Sky Friendly policies at all fourteen of its campuses, which it owns due to the work of Bruce McMath and Lynn Foster with the Arkansas Audubon Society, while the management of the Baxter County Library is pursuing a similar effort on its very impressive campus, thanks to Jeff and Susan Hoeper.
- We were able to help a growing number of light trespass victims last year and are awaiting a decision from the AR Court of Appeals on a pioneer light trespass case.
- We have grown our volunteer base on our [groups.io platform](#), where we now have 36 activists and 44 dues-paying members. Thanks to them and a number of generous contributions, especially from Karl Shultz's family and Jeff and Susan Hoeper, our financial resources make it possible for us to have projects like Stella's Outdoor Lighting Academy and take it to events such as the Municipal League's convention.

On the not-so-proud side, our very promising Dark Sky Hosting program has languished for want of volunteer support. This is potentially a very powerful tool, but it needs someone to give it some attention. More people are needed who are willing to push for action in their

community, city, or business, and there is no end to the individual administrative activities where a volunteer can make a difference. For example, Justin Vess, who has taken over membership management and the associated mailing duties, has freed up time and energy for me to work on other matters. Thanks, Justin. Anyone interested in finding ways they can help should join our volunteer community network on [Groups.io](#).

I have left many involved people out in the above, such as our governing Steering Committee, which inspires and guides our efforts, but their work, and that of others not mentioned, is crucial to ANSA's progress. In all, a productive year with prospects for more gains in the coming year. Thanks to all who have pitched in or just shown an interest.

Now, looking ahead, mark the Festival on your calendars for October 2nd and 3rd. Make sure your home is dark-sky friendly, join DSI and ANSA, and consider volunteering. Links to all the ways to become involved can be found [here](#).

BTW, no rain-date this year at the festival, so it is up to everyone to help will in clear skies.

Thanks for your interest and support

Bruce McMath

Chair.