

December, 2023

Dear KTC Members and Supporters,

KTC has a new president! On Oct. 28, at our gala 21st Anniversary Celebration, I passed the torch - er, actually a railroad spike and a Klickitat Mineral Water bottle - to KTC's new president, Ken Hansen. Ken has roots as a teenager in the Underwood area of the Gorge. His career was in Alaska, supervising law enforcement activities in the Federal fisheries, but upon retiring he and his wife decided to move to the High Prairie area of the Gorge, with Swale Canyon and the Klickitat Trail nearby. I am delighted that the presidency is passing to such capable hands!

The eight years I have been president have been wonderful, with much progress on the trail, and KTC's board has been incredibly supportive. We cleaned up the beautiful Irvin Mitchell property and donated it to State Parks, pushed for and received a grant for a bridge to replace a trestle, put in better signage, graveled the Pitt trailhead, and did many other projects.

I now have health issues so need to step down, but it is so important for the trail that KTC continues with Ken as president, and also hopefully with a new generation of board members. The trail is better and more popular every year, but KTC is still very needed as an advocate for trail users, to perform basic trail maintenance, and to push for progress with State Parks and the Forest Service on the bridge grant and other projects.

Besides our new president, we have two new young board members that I'm proud to introduce. Annick Chalier is an avid mountain biker and uses the whole trail to train, as well as stopping to pick up rockfall and trash. Serin Buck hikes the trail frequently and thinks it is important to the community. Both live in Lyle, and both have computer and organizational skills that KTC is much in need of. Welcome, Annick and Serin!

Thank you all so very much, our loyal members and supporters, for your support over the years for KTC and this wonderful trail! The very best to all of you, and we hope to see you on the trail this year.

Barbara Robinson
(Ken will now continue this letter.)

It is both a privilege and a bit daunting to follow Barbara. She, her predecessors, many KTC Board members and scores of others have brought this trail from a not-always popular idea to an increasingly-sought-out recreation destination. KTC members and

supporters have been a cornerstone of advancing and improving the Klickitat Trail. KTC's 21st Anniversary celebration was a wonderful event. In addition to members and supporters, a special thank-you to our Forest Service and State Parks friends who joined us.

Several projects and initiatives are underway at KTC. We are continuing to advocate with State Parks for replacement of the bridge at Suburbia, to reconnect the trail and alleviate a dangerous section of highway detours.

State Parks is making good progress on a grant to replace several sections of railroad ballast with gravel as well as repair of bridges in Swale Canyon. They just reported that contracts are currently be solicited, with work expected to begin this Spring.

KTC is collaborating with State parks to place trail counters at key points along the trail. Accurate and defensible estimates of trail use will enhance our outreach efforts with legislators and policymakers on behalf of the trail.

KTC plans to once again be involved in leading hiking and cycling events on the Klickitat Trail. Additionally, in the past, KTC has collaborated with other groups sponsoring sporting events on the trail, and remains interested in future partnerships. We will also certainly be continuing our schedule of work parties, providing the opportunity get out on the trail and swing a tool for trail maintenance.

Please keep your eyes on our website and Facebook pages! End of year donations are always welcome.

There are two ways to contribute. You can mail a check to Klickitat Trail Conservancy, PO BOX 512, Lyle, WA 98635. Or you can go to our website, www.klickitat-trail.org and under "contribute" on the right side of the page, click on "donate". It would help KTC communicate with you more economically if you would consider joining the Mailing List by filling in the boxes under "Contact Us", also on the right side of the website page. We only send about six to ten emails per year.

Best Wishes to you for the New Year, from the entire KTC board,
Ken Hansen, KTC President