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## December 2017 Newsletter

Dear Friend of KLB,

**Happy Holidays!** *'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house, not a creature was stirring...except for me finishing this newsletter and sending it out.* Yes, I just wanted to squeeze-in one last newsletter this year with some recent updates, activities, and a timely green tip.

### Year-end Mailing

As I mentioned last month, KLB is only subjecting our faithful supporters to one fund drive this year, so if we have your address, you should have received the mailing by now. We're very grateful for those of you that didn't wait for the mailing and already mailed us your donations as we need to raise funds now so we can determine if all of our 2018 projects and programs can be implemented as we sort-out our budget in the next month or so. We're also grateful for supporters that shop on [Amazon Smile](#) and choose KLB as their charity as every little bit helps.

Did you know that a \$50 donation will purchase 12

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reusable water bottles to help promote Loudoun as a Bottled Water Free Zone? The Number-One litter we collect is bottled water, so if we can help people to choose to reuse, we all win. For \$100, we can buy 5 litter pick-up sticks that increase cleanup efficiency & safety for our volunteers, especially when dealing with litter in brush. For \$250, we can buy much-needed safety vests for 37 volunteers. And for just \$2,500, we can hold one of our uniquely impactful watershed cleanups.

The mailing also included a colorful and information-packed year-end newsletter, which can be viewed on our [Newsletter page](#) by clicking on the “**Winter 2017 (mailed)**” link. Whether or not you received the mailing, if you find value in what KLB does for Loudoun and all that live, work, play, and visit here, please donate what you can by mailing us a check or clicking the “Please Donate” button in this newsletter. **Thank you!** And if you would like to join our mailing list, just email us your address. Don't worry, we won't flood your mailbox like other nonprofits as we would only mail you one to four updates a year.

## **Board of Directors Update**

We have a lot to report this month. First-off, we're thrilled to let you know that we have two new board members. Shannon Nalley and Mike Cassidy both stepped-up as the KLB mission resonated with them. They both are deeply troubled by the challenges we all face in keeping Loudoun beautiful, like increased litter and rampant use of single-use consumer products (bottled water, disposable shopping bags, cardboard coffee cups, etc.) and are determined to do something about it. We're very grateful and are excited to add their energy and creativity in moving the KLB mission forward.

On the flip side, we're sad to report that our long-long-longtime Area Leader, Board member, and Secretary, Norma Netherwood, has decided to take well-deserved break after serving KLB and Loudoun for 31 years. We're very appreciative of her dedication and service, and she will certainly be missed, but I hope you will join me in wishing her all the best in her KLB retirement. The Winter 2017 newsletter mentioned above has a nice spread honoring Norma, so please be sure to take a look.

Norma's departure leaves the Secretary Officer position vacant. We would love to elect a new Secretary as soon as possible, so if you or someone you know would like to explore contributing to the KLB leadership in this capacity (recording officer and custodian of all corporate records), please let us know. And even though we're thrilled that our board is still growing, we would love to grow even more, so let us know if you want to answer the call to action.

### **Green Tip – Don't forget to give some kindness gifts to Mother Earth**

Since this is the season for exchanging gifts, please remember to give some kindness to Mother Earth with three easy-to-do gifts: Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle. Here are some meaningful ways that instantly make a difference.

**Reduce:** Conservation is arguably a tough gift to give to Mother Earth this time of year since all the shopping deals can make it pretty irresistible, but how about unplugging your new electronic gadgets when not in use or using smart power strips to conserve energy? And how about the gift of litter reduction? With the expected wind advisory on Christmas (and is really par for the course in Winter),

be sure to properly cover and control your curbside trash and recycling (more on recycling below).

Careless littering in the form of blowing trash and recycling account for more than half of all litter polluting our communities, waterways, and planet, and is 100% preventable by caring and using some common sense.

**Reuse:** If you can't reuse them yourself, be sure to donate packing peanuts, bubble wrap, and air bags from packaging to your nearest parcel shipping store, which are usually more than happy to put these materials back to work. And if you scored something new that's replacing something that still works, don't just toss it. Instead, donate it to a [local charity](#) or post on [freecycle.org](#), [Craig's List](#), or on a local Facebook group as everyone wins when you keep useful things out of the landfill or recycle them before their time. Of course, entertaining family & friends with reusable cups, plates, silverware, and napkins is a must-do if the quality of life of future generations matters to you. It matters to KLB, so that's why we use only reusable entertainmentware.

**Recycle:** If reusing/repurposing something isn't possible, then please, please, please recycle. Recycle packaging cardboard and everything else that's disposable and can be recycled as there's tremendous value to us humans by simply recycling, including electronic recycling. And if you use curbside recycling, be sure to use a **covered recycling tote** to prevent careless littering, which of course is illegal and just adds to the litter mess that KLB has to deal with.

*I hope you found this newsletter helpful. As always, if any of this resonates with you, we would love to hear from you.*

Lastly, the entire KLB Board of Directors wants to wish you and your family a safe and joyous holiday season and all the best in 2018!

**Thanks much for your support and please share this with your network.**

Mark Lenko  
President, KLB Board of Directors

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