

# LWVN VOTER 9-2017



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## Exploring the Healthcare Conundrum

**DATE: Thursday November 2, 2017**

**TIME: 6:30-8:30pm**

**PLACE: Lowry Room, Norman Central Library  
225 North Webster; Norman, Oklahoma 73069**

We have invited experts to host four Topic Tables that include:

- *Family and Children Services*
- *Aging and Disability Services*
- *Mental Health*
- *Health Insurance/access to care*

We are also inviting several Norman organizations with connections in these areas to join us for the event. The round table discussions will be followed with Topic summaries, and participant conversation about future activities. These will be led by Carly Putnam, Oklahoma Policy Institute Policy Analyst.

The plans for this event are the result of many conversations we have had with members and others in the community and the feedback from our Annual Meeting last spring. We want you to participate in the discussion and add your thoughts and ideas for future activities.

Also, we are looking for members who would like to volunteer as "scribes" at the Topic Tables, to help the hosts with taking notes and capturing the ideas expressed by the groups. Steering Committee members will be contacting you for interest in helping to assist our table hosts. If you are interested in one of the areas in particular, please contact Sandy Bahan (360-1060; [sbahan@aol.com](mailto:sbahan@aol.com)) or Doris Kupfer (973-8945; [kupfer\\_doris@yahoo.com](mailto:kupfer_doris@yahoo.com)).

There will be limited room at each Topic Table so come early to settle in and engage in meaningful conversation and idea exchange on issues affecting all of us.

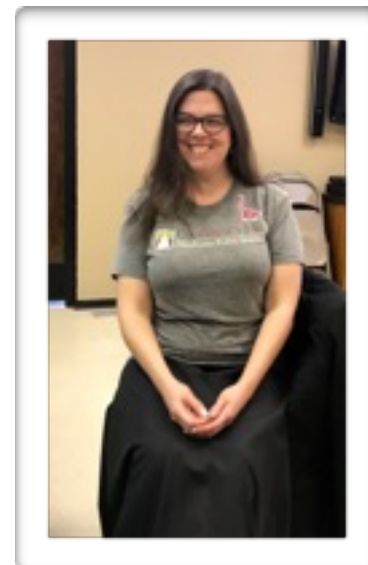
The Norman League is interested in continuing the Healthcare conversation and how we can work together to move the conversation forward into action.

LWV Norman  
Steering Committee

## **Kara Joy McKee, “Civic Engagement & the role of the League in the 21st Century”**

Kara Joy McKee, a native Normanite and OU grad, spoke to us at our Annual Meeting, May 20, 2017. She is the Oklahoma Policy Institute’s Outreach Specialist and coordinates the Together Oklahoma coalition which works to make it easier for all Oklahomans to advocate for sensible public policies.

Kara and friends raced down from the OK Capitol to talk to us about engaging Gen X and Millennials in our studies, consensus building and voter service activities. All are welcome and needed. Men, too! Her talk was fun, funny and informative.



## **“Aging in Place”**

### **Hot Topic Lunch with Dave Boeck & Kendra Orcutt**

Dave Boeck, professor of architecture at OU and on the Norman Planning Commission, started his talk June 28th, with how his torn rotator cuff motivated him to modify his own home. Since then, he has teamed up with Kendra Orcutt, AARP and Habitat for Humanity, to re-create homes for a teenager who was shot and one who was in a terrible car accident. He stressed that Aging in Place doesn’t mean just the old and frail, showing a slide of his little granddaughter proudly going down stairs thanks to an additional low handrail.

Kendra Orcutt, a therapist, emphasized the need for room for a wheelchair to enter a doorway and to spin around in a bathroom or hallway. Door handles and faucets should be levelers. Toilet seats should be higher with grab bars near. Showers should be easy to enter even from a wheelchair. Entering your house from the front door or garage may need a ramp, grab bar or French doors wide enough for a wheelchair or hospital bed.



—Helen Duchon, Editor; Photographer

## Forums, our Nonpartisan Pledge and “Empty Chair” rule

This past summer our League was invited to be part of a coalition of local groups to sponsor a forum for the special election scheduled for September 12, to elect a new representative for House District 46. **The focus of the Forum would be education funding and the state budget. We agreed to be part of the Forum and our specific task was to moderate the Forum.**

Our partners were Together OK, The Oklahoma Education Association, IMPACT Norman, Professional Educators of Norman, and The Cleveland-McClain County Retired Educators Association. At the formation of the coalition, both candidates had agreed to participate and the planning went forward under the assumption that both would be present. However, on the evening of the Forum, one of the candidates chose not to attend but instead sent a representative to speak for him and answer the audience questions. At this point the **League, based on our “empty chair” rule, had to withdraw our sponsorship from the event**, since a surrogate is not the same as having the candidate himself present.

The situation, while awkward, still allowed for a good discussion of education policy and budget priorities, as well as information on the candidates’ backgrounds and qualifications. The turnout for the event, one of the largest in recent memory, reflected the strong interest in the election, and its importance.

—Sandy Bahan, Chair  
LWVN Steering Committee



*Jacob Rosecrants pondered a question submitted by someone in the audience and asked by Sandy Bahan, Moderator. Rep. McBride, R-Moore, surrogate for Darin Chambers, sat-in for awhile, then excused himself to have dinner with his wife.*

—Helen Duchon, Photo credit

## News from LWV of Oklahoma

At its Convention, the LWVOK voted on and approved to merge the League’s 501 (c) 3 Citizens Education Fund and the LWVOK (c) 4 to become the **LWVOK, a Charitable Trust**, combining the assets of both. Hereafter, the board members will become trustees. This will not substantially change any activities, as we financially and otherwise fit into the new code. Appropriate changes were made in the Bylaws and adopted. The purposes for the change are many. State and National dues are now tax deductible. Norman League is working on legal and tax compliance.

### Membership

To conform to the LWVUS new requirements, persons at least 16 years of age may join the league as voting members with the usual privileges. And, those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

### Studies

There will be a restudy on education in 2017-2019. To be added to the LWVOK Program for Action are the following: the new Fiscal Policy Position; concurrence on the Stillwater 2015 study on their Position on Drug Policy; and concurrence on a Tulsa 2016 study on their Position on School Bond Measures.

### New OKC League!

Work is progressing in reestablishing the Oklahoma City area League. If you know of anyone that would be interested, they may join on the league website for now and/or contact Erica Mackey at [Emackey@sheltonlawok.com](mailto:Emackey@sheltonlawok.com) for any questions.

### Voter Guide for 2018 Elections

The 2016 Voter Guide was a great success, especially due to the information on the many state questions. Although the LWVOK usually produces it in presidential election years only, it is in the process of trying to line up the financing for a Voter Guide for 2018. More on this to come as the grant requests are received.

—Joyce Collard, LWVOK Board Rep

## LWVOK in Norman

### LWVOK Trustees Meeting

**November 18, 2017, 10 AM** in Norman at the Central Library in rooms A & B, followed after lunch by a combination **goals/advocacy meeting** from 1-3 PM. All League members are invited to the afternoon meeting.

### LWVOK Council Meeting

Norman League will host in **June 2018**.

- \* Watch for Calendar of Events on our website <http://norman.ok.lwvnet.org/>
- \* LIKE us on Facebook to get notifications of events: League of Women Voters of Norman, Oklahoma

## LWVN Calendar

### October Hot Topic Lunch

**TBA, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm;**  
Interurban Restaurant , Noble Pkwy.  
**Healthcare: A State Responsibility?**  
**Watch for Facebook Event & email**

### Healthcare Conundrum

**Nov. 2, 6:30-8:30 pm**  
Lowry Room, Central Norman Library  
225 N. Webster, Norman, OK  
**Topic Tables and future action on**  
•Family & Children Services  
•Aging and Disability Services  
•Mental Health  
•Health Insurance & Access to Care

## League of Women Voters of Norman, Oklahoma

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