

## **PUBLIC ISSUES & ADVOCACY** (Improving the Community)

*"Advocate for issues that affect the lives of women, children and families in our communities."*

### PURPOSE:

- \* Issue-oriented committee that advocates for community needs, League interests and State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) focus areas.
- \* Improve the JLBR's ability to oversee League attention to and involvement in our focus areas and to pursue ideas for future project development.

### JOB DESCRIPTION:

- 1) Attend at least ONE (1) of three SPAC Conference
  - \* Day-long training/workshop **Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>** with other JL of Florida members
  - \* Weekend-long conference in October in TBD location in FL with other JL of Florida members
  - \* Overnight trip to advocate for SPAC Legislative Agenda in Tallahassee in February or March with other JL of Florida members
- 2) Learn how to advocate
  - \* Attend the conferences to gain knowledge of how our voices can effect change
- 3) Research issues that affect women, children and families in our state
  - \* Remain current on issues by reading the papers and SPAC emails
  - \* Communicate with assigned elected officials
- 4) Meet with assigned elected officials
  - \* at least once before August SPAC workshop
  - \* Give your contact information and ask to be put on their email and mailing lists
  - \* Know what issues they are supporting and offer ideas on how we can help each other
- 5) Communicate our work with the General Membership
  - \* Write brief synopsis of conferences attended, debrief appointments with elected officials and educate on major issue SPAC is supporting for Bridge. Give membership opportunities to participate in letter writing campaigns for pending legislation. Promote Voter Registration and encourage voting within the membership.
- 6) Communicate our work with the community.
  - \* Host a community reception with Project Development inviting local politicians and Executive Directors of community projects.

- \* Participate in the Community Council Breakfast by presenting the SPAC Legislative Agenda to community partners; and facilitating a discussion regarding issues affecting our local community that elected officials should be aware of.
- \* Host Legislative reception(s) for our legislative delegation with JLPB at least once a year.

#### TIME REQUIRED: TWO YEAR COMMITMENT

One meeting per month plus independent time required to complete committee assignments. Phone calls and some research may require daytime hours. Committee members attempt to attend as many SPAC conferences (3 per year) as possible. All chairs sit on the State Public Affairs Committee, as well as attend Community Council Monthly Meetings. Chair and Chair-Elect attend Governance Council Meetings three times a year.

#### SKILLS ACQUIRED:

- \* Political and community awareness
- \* Advocacy skills and techniques
- \* Planning strategy and implementation
- \* Research and writing skills
- \* Network with other JL members from all over the state

#### VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

1 Chair; 1 Chair-Elect; 3-4 members for local and state advocacy efforts

SUGGESTED MEETING TIME: To be determined

#### LEAGUE CONTACT: