

# **NYSPAC and the Junior League of Albany Public Affairs Committee**

## **What is NYSPAC?**

NYSPAC is the New York State Public Affairs Council of the Junior Leagues. It is a coalition of 17 member Junior Leagues in New York State who work together on legislative issues that are important to our leagues. NYSPAC focuses on public policy initiatives that impact women and children in our communities.

NYSPAC educates League members on issues selected for support, facilitates communication among the member leagues, provides training in advocacy skills and strategies, and acts as the representative body of the member Leagues at the state and national level.

## **What is the JLA Public Affairs Committee?**

Part of the Community Council, the Public Affairs committee works with NYSPAC. NYSPAC investigates and promotes legislation that is important to League goals and values and teaches members how to lobby their state legislative representatives in support of these goals.<sup>1</sup>

## **NYSPAC Facts:**

- NYSPAC is bi-partisan, we do not support candidates or have any party affiliation
- Any Junior League in New York state is welcome to participate. Member requirements include sending 1 or more “delegates” to NYSPAC and paying annual dues
- Member leagues currently include: Schenectady/Saratoga, Bronxville, Manhattan, Queens, Pelham, Central Westchester, Rochester and Syracuse and others.
- In 2019 NYSPAC helped pass the Salary History ban, an important component of equal pay
- Previous issues have included: Raise the Age, anti-human trafficking initiatives, and measures for victims of domestic violence.

## **How does NYSPAC work?**

1. Delegates attend monthly conference calls.
2. Issues are solicited from member leagues and voted on by delegates to obtain a top 3.
3. The NYSPAC board and delegates draft policy memos, join coalitions and create training materials in support of the bill.
4. In the Spring, NYSPAC holds a 2 day conference for all delegates and league members including an Advocacy Day at the New York State Capitol.

## **How to get involved?**

- Attend a training or Advocacy Day in the spring (April or May)
- Submit an issue to the Public Affairs Chairs [community@juniorleaguealbany.org](mailto:community@juniorleaguealbany.org). Issues can be found by asking community partners about their legislative priorities, searching for bills that did not pass the prior session, or helping to draft new legislation.
- Keep an eye on social media for alerts to contact your elected officials to support NYSPAC priorities

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the JLA Councils and Committees doc  
<http://www.juniorleaguealbany.org/members-only/councils-and-committees/>