



THE POLICY
CIRCLE®

**MAKE THE
BIGGEST RIPPLE
IN YOUR POND**

“The Policy Circle has given me the opportunity to influence the women around me, drawing them to a higher sense of themselves through their own brilliance and willingness to learn.”

– Judi W., Circle Member

WWW.THEPOLICYCIRCLE.ORG

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Policy Circle Supporters,

Many intelligent, concerned women, who care deeply about freedom and free enterprise, sit on the sidelines because they lack an easy way to gain confidence in their own capacity for thought leadership in public policy making.

The Policy Circle was created to address that need by providing a framework for these women to connect and openly share their views. The Roundtable Discussion format allows members to feel heard and validated and to grow in knowledge. Policy Briefs, which aggregate research from established free-market think tanks who are part of the State Policy Network, are organized into a curriculum, and provide suggestions for engagement with policy makers. The regular meeting structure of every other month sessions helps form community among the circle members and a commitment to stay involved. Policy Circle members have access to a web portal where they can organize meetings, post articles and discussion summaries, access briefs, and receive ongoing support to grow and engage their circles.

With your continued support, we will create a culture of engagement that empowers women to become influencers in their local communities, promoting the values of economic freedom and liberty and policies that foster free-enterprise.

Warmly,



Sylvie Légère
Co-Founder, President



Angela Braly
Co-Founder, Secretary



Kathy Hubbard
Co-Founder, Treasurer

Meet a Few of Our Policy Circle Leaders

Petra and Ellen, Policy Circle NYC

Petra and Ellen are co-leaders of Policy Circle NYC. Petra is a native Midwesterner turned New Yorker who got “lured” to a Policy Circle meeting by a friend, given her interest in politics and policy and her desire to be conversant and convincing. Ellen started studying economics when she was living abroad in Egypt because she was so fascinated by the role it plays in everyday lives. She had a front row seat as Egypt struggled to create new, free-market based economic policies following the 2011 Revolution. Ellen and Petra have found their Policy Circle work very rewarding, learning a lot from each other and sharing their networks as well. *“It’s a never-ending struggle to perfect policy, but I truly believe the creative minds in the world today will come together to create change that will work for everyone.”* Ellen, Circle Leader.

Jane, Libertas Circle, Missouri

Jane, co-leader of the Libertas Circle, started her circle because she *“became convinced of the importance of the movement. Not only did I know it would enrich my life personally, I could see the larger picture of how engaged women could change the course of our communities and restore the personal freedoms and concept of Liberty that is the envy of the world.”* Jane works closely with the Show Me Institute, a Missouri free market think tank, to share state level content and events with her circle members.

What is The Policy Circle?

The Policy Circle is a national grassroots network of circles, each led by two or three circle leaders. Using fact-based Policy Briefs as conversation guides for roundtable discussions, women learn from each other to become better informed, more engaged and more active in supporting policies that limit government and foster entrepreneurial economies. Women are inspired to become more vocal in public policy dialogue and civic engagement within their communities, states and country.

Financial Overview

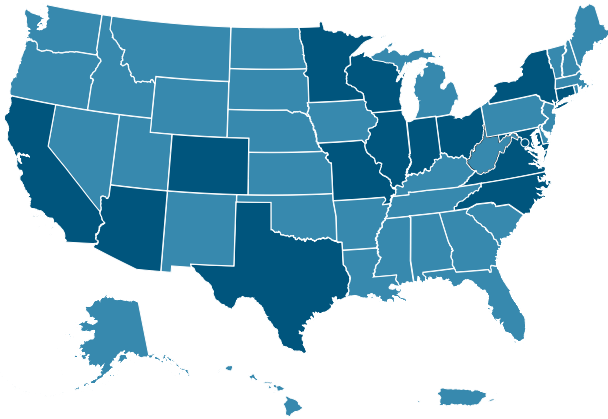
January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016

Total Revenue: \$304,884

Total Expenses: \$359,763

Net Assets: \$124,653

The Movement is Spreading



Number of Circles

2014 1 Circle



3500% circle growth in just 2 years

2015

10 Circles



2016

36 Circles



Policy Circle Members spent over 27,000 hours reading and discussing policy in 2016.

I can't tell you how inspiring it is to have an outlet for intelligent, constructive and educational conversation about the serious issues we all face today. For so long, I have silently worried about where our state and country is headed and, as an individual, the problem seems overwhelmingly impossible to tackle. With others, there is strength and power — both in ideas and actions — and, suddenly, the potential for change seems very possible.

— Lisa F.

Chicago Circle Member

14 Briefs

The Policy Circle curates content developed by leading think tanks such as the Cato Institute, American Enterprise Institute, The Heritage Foundation, The Manhattan Institute, Brookings Institute, FEE, Tax Foundation and the Heartland Institute for briefs.

Library of Briefs:

- Why Free Enterprise?
- Civic Engagement
- The U.S. House
- The U.S. Senate
- Economic Growth
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Taxes
- Foreign Policy - The Middle East
- Immigration
- Healthcare Reform
- Healthcare 2016 Update
- K-12 Education Reform
- Poverty in America
- Higher Education Reform

5,137

Number of times a Policy Brief was read on the website in 2016.

The Policy Circle is pleased to collaborate with the following free market think tanks to share statewide information, statistics and priorities with members:

- California Policy Center
- The Empire Center
- Free to Choose Network
- Freedom Foundation of Minnesota
- The Maclver Institute
- Reclaim NYC
- The Buckeye Institute
- The Illinois Policy Institute
- The Show Me Institute

What Makes The Policy Circle Different?

- Community based circles
- Framework for Discussion
- Face to Face conversations
- Library of Policy Briefs
- Custom built Members-only website
- Influencer Education

National Conference: Inspiring Action

“It was an honor to sit and listen and learn from women who have such experience. It really helps me as I form my own views,” Ivy Tech student and Conference attendee.

In 2016, more than 150 women from across the country gathered in Indianapolis to talk about the critical issues facing our nation today. **The First Annual Women’s Influence & Liberty Conference**, co-sponsored by The Policy Circle and the Center for the Study of Liberty, brought participants together to tackle issues such as healthcare, taxes, trade, regulation, free enterprise, poverty and education.

95%

Of conference attendees would attend a second Policy Circle Conference!

Building Relationships on a local level



The Policy Circle Team attended the 2016 SPN conference, and established additional collaborations with national and state level think tanks, as well as other organizations committed to keeping freedom and free-markets at the forefront of policy dialogue. The Policy Circle sponsored the 5K, which offered outstanding exposure for our growing organization.

“Think tanks work with us to prioritize the state issues for the local Policy Circles, and in turn empowered women become part of the dialogue with policy makers. It’s a win-win relationship,” said Sylvie Legere, President and co-founder of The Policy Circle.

One think tank representative told us: *“You just might return civility to community dialogue.”*

Spread the word: Visit www.thepolicycircle.org and recommend a circle leader

Follow us on Facebook: [the policy circle](https://www.facebook.com/thepolicycircle)

Support the movement: Donate at www.thepolicycircle.org/donate

The Policy Circle

1189 Wilmette Avenue, #210
Wilmette, IL 60091

Growth of The Policy Circle

2014



Rose Friedman Circle meets in Wilmette, IL



Founders meet and decision to go national is made

2015



The Policy Circle is created



Website launched www.thepolicycircle.org



First brief is published: Economic Growth



The Policy Circle expands to Indiana and grows to 10 circles

2016



10th think tank partnership added



First national conference held



15th Policy brief published



1000th Policy Circle member joins

The Policy Circle speaks to the hunger that is out there – for some to learn their voice, for others to hone their voice, understanding the issues and articulating them in a non-emotional way.

– Anne

PolicyCircle Member