



MOVING FORWARD

“Small steps can lead to bigger impact. We as Americans have forgotten what it means to live in a society that is based on the free-market and we take it for granted to the point of not defending its gifts. The Policy Circle reminds me of how important my role is in upholding and defending the principles that give people true hope.”

– Policy Circle Member and Summit Attendee

WWW.THEPOLICYCIRCLE.ORG

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE

Dear Friends of The Policy Circle,

This past year nearly 2000 Policy Circle women in 23 states in over 90 circles found and strengthened their voices and began speaking up and making their views heard.

Policy Circle members gathered regularly, read Policy Circle briefs and articles, and participated in free and open discussion about how policies affect a free market economy. Members also attended local and state government meetings, questioned budget decisions and some took that next step and ran for office. It was a year of tremendous activity, growth and engagement.

At The Policy Circle Leadership Summit, attendees learned the importance of sharing their opinions, trading ideas with fellow Circle Leaders, and left with the tools and inspiration to spread entrepreneurial ideas and policies that foster freedom in their communities and in the world.

Ultimately, The Policy Circle is about conversations. Conversations are like seeds that we plant -- they grow, they multiply and ultimately they change the landscape. With your continued support, we will continue to 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

Sylvie Légère
Co-Founder, President

Angela

Angela Braly
Co-Founder, Secretary

Kathy

Kathy Hubbard
Co-Founder, Treasurer

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.

Leadership Training



The 2017 Policy Circle Leadership Summit offered a full day of interactive leadership training specifically designed to provide Policy Circle leaders with information and tools to lead a thriving circle, broaden their influence, make strategic connections and share best practices with other circle leaders. Over 100 women leaders from around the country attended the Summit and returned to their communities better informed, ready to share their experience with their circle members and inspired to become more vocal proponents for freedom and free-enterprise policies.

"Attending the Summit and meeting so many women who had found different ways to get involved in policy, I realized that one person can make a difference."
- Mary, Policy Circle Member

Profile of a Summit Attendee

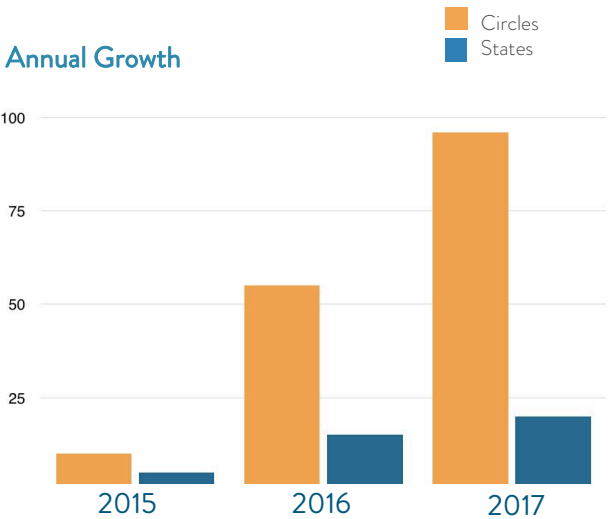
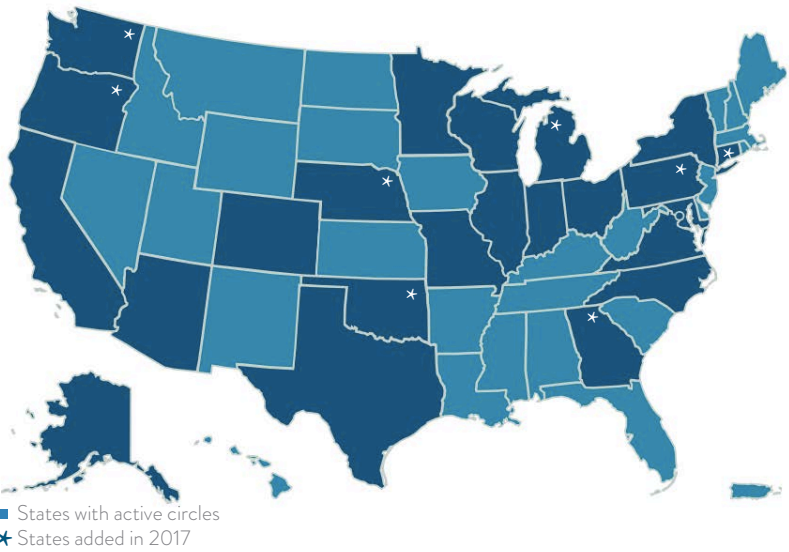
- 75% knew their state representatives
- 93% had interacted with a lawmaker
- 68% had contemplated holding an elective or appointed office
- Top Issues: health care and taxation



Financial Overview

January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Total Revenue: \$508,898
Total Expenses: \$483,574
Net Income: \$25,324



Policy Education

The Policy Circle Library of briefs includes curated content developed by leading think tanks which are organized into a year of conversation.



Foreign Policy: Asia Pacific
Foreign Policy: Middle East
Immigration



Poverty
K-12 Education
Higher Education



Free Enterprise
Fiscal Responsibility
Economic Growth
Government Regulation
Taxation
Dodd-Frank
Energy & The Environment



Civic Engagement
Free Speech
US Senate
US House of Representatives



Healthcare
Healthcare: Obamacare
Opioid Epidemic

15,253

Number of times a Policy Brief was read on the website in 2017.

259% increase from last year

Collaboration & Partnership

The Policy Circle is about bringing people and organizations together to engage citizens with a mind of their own in the public policy dialogue. The Policy Circle Briefs reflect the work of state and national think tanks. The Policy Circle model provides an opportunity for members of existing women's groups to engage at a new level.



January 3, 2017

Facts are important, and we must always remember that when discussing public policy. We encourage discussions, not debates, in the pursuit of good public policy.

10,000

likes for TPC posts on facebook

Policy Circle Members spent over 44,800 hours reading & discussing policy in 2017.

"Civil discourse is one of the most significant barriers to progress we are facing right now in the US. Our Policy Circle is a training ground for our members looking to get better at this." - Policy Circle Member

Meet A Few of Our Leaders

Stacey Woehrle Circle Member, Illinois

At a neighbor's invitation, Stacey joined the first Policy Circle, Rose Friedman. She was interested in learning more about government policy and the pros and cons of various issues with a welcoming group of women in her neighborhood. She regularly attends meetings because she enjoys reading thought provoking policy briefs and discussing the issues openly without judgment. Stacey is now in the process of starting her own circle for women involved in business and finance.

"I am a different person since joining the Policy Circle: from strengthening my voice, to vastly improving my understanding of public policy, to getting involved in local government issues and believing that my opinion matters. It gave me the confidence to run for a local office."

Last year, leveraging her accounting and finance background, Stacey ran for New Trier Township Trustee. While her slate lost, Stacey thought it was a win for the state because "we challenged an entrenched caucus process which gave voters no choice in the election." Her outstanding campaign brought her to the attention of state leaders and led to her appointment by Governor Rauner as a Trustee of the Illinois State Board of Investments, which manages over \$20 billion.

Lisa Gallo Hayes Circle Leader, California

"When you live in a city and state that are overwhelmingly progressive, it's easy to think that there is no one else around you that shares your free-market views, but like-minded people are out there and they are looking to connect." Lisa started her circle to find other believers in the free market, and has really loved seeing the trust develop between Circle members, noting that with that trust comes a greater willingness to voice opinions and challenge both each other and the status quo. "As I watch Los Angeles and California continue to enact policies that make it harder to live here, I realize that I cannot hope to see things improve by being a bystander. The Policy Circle has given me the confidence to speak up and get involved. Members of my Circle keep an eye out for proposed policies that will impact our lives, and we keep each other informed about them. We are channeling our energy and are determined to effect positive change."

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

2017 The Policy Circle

First Quarter



- Governor Holcomb addresses Indiana Policy Circle members
- Connecticut launches first circle

Third Quarter



- TPC leadership presents at:
 - Turning Point's Young Women Leadership Forum
 - Maverick Inc. Conference
- Founding circle tops 80 members and launches first spin-off circle
- Michigan, Oregon and Pennsylvania launch circles

Second Quarter



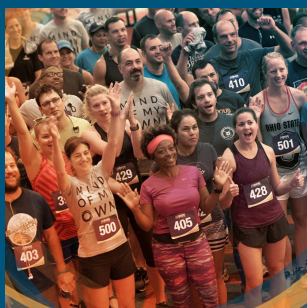
- Nebraska launches circles
 - Op Ed appears in the Omaha World Herald
- Heartland Institute promotes TPC
- Women influencers in DC introduced to TPC
- TPC grows to 50 circles

Fourth Quarter



- TPC presents at:
 - Philanthropy Roundtable
 - Kansas Policy Institute Board of Directors
 - Yankee Institute "Keep it Local" Summit
- TPC Leadership Summit held in Chicago
- Washington and Georgia launch circles

State Policy Network (SPN)



For the third year in a row Policy Circle representatives attended the State Policy Network (SPN) annual meeting and sponsored the Policy Circle 5K for Freedom run. This year's theme?

#MindofMyOwn. More than 1300 professionals

from state and national policy-related organizations from around the country attend this networking and knowledge sharing event. The Policy Circle is a grassroots network of women with a mind of their own who seek to understand and gain confidence to speak up about the issues and solutions researched by SPN organizations.