

Public Affairs Update
By: Christi Horne, Public Affairs Chair

The JLM Public Affairs Committee is thrilled play active role again this year in **SPAC – the State Public Affairs Committee of the Junior Leagues of Georgia.**

SPAC is the advocacy arm of the Junior Leagues of Georgia, monitoring the state legislative process and addressing issues of political importance to the members of the Junior Leagues.

The Georgia SPAC was created in order to coordinate public affairs activities of member Leagues, assist the Leagues in their public affairs programs, study and disseminate information to the member Leagues on state and national issues germane to the interest of the Junior Leagues, provide a channel for possible mutual action, and represent the Junior Leagues of Georgia at the state and federal level on public affairs issues. These interests include, but are not limited to improving women and children’s health, expanding education, and providing support for women and children at risk.

SPAC is comprised of delegates from each of the 12 Leagues, representing over 10,000 women. Each participating League sends delegates to state meetings and conferences throughout the year to research and debate the issues facing Georgia communities. For 2009-2010, I, along with PA Chair-Elect Julie Steele, will be working with the SPAC Ad Hoc Committee for further research into the issue of Human Trafficking, while also participating in SPAC monthly conference calls, state fall, winter and spring meetings and various other conferences.

SPAC has adopted the following position statements:

“Seat Belts and Child Safety Seats: The Junior Leagues of Georgia support legislation and other efforts, including but not limited to educational efforts, to protect and/or increase the safety of women and/or children through the use of seat belts and /or child safety seats.”

“Human Trafficking: The Junior Leagues of Georgia find that human trafficking is unacceptable. We support the creation and enforcement of laws that prevent the importation and detainment of women and children for the purpose of exploitation. We also endorse the funding of efforts to provide victim services for those affected by human trafficking. We support the treatment of children who are victims of this exploitation as victims rather than criminals.”

Upcoming Dates for SPAC 2009-2010:

President’s Breakfast in Peachtree City September 19, 2009

Fall Meeting will be hosted by the Douglas County Junior League on October 24, 2009

Winter Meeting/Capitol Visit will be held on February 11, 2010

Spring Meeting will be hosted by the Columbus Junior League on Saturday, April 24, 2010