



January 29, 2015

Welcome to the Women Legislators' Lobby's (WiLL) January 2015 e-newsletter:

Renew Your Membership with WiLL!



Nearly 1/3 of the nation's currently seated women state legislators are WiLL members! We welcome new members to grow our ranks and encourage returning legislators to join WiLL or renew their memberships. [WiLL members](#) receive access to timely updates and trainings, along with opportunities to raise awareness about the federal budget's impact on the states and to protect programs your constituents rely on, as well as a chance to network with state legislators nationwide. As we prepare for our biennial conference in Washington, DC on October 4-6, 2015, we hope many more talented women will join WiLL! You can join or renew your membership [online](#). WiLL membership materials will also be mailed to you shortly. For more information about WiLL membership, please contact Adzi Vokhiwa at 202-544-5055 ext. 1 or avokhiwa@wand.org.

WiLL in the News



Following the WiLL/WAND and EastWest Institute's (EWI) November [Legislative Exchange in Morocco](#), Kentucky **Representative Joni Jenkins**, Moroccan MP **Loubna Amhaïr**, Egyptian MP **Marianne Malak**, and Wisconsin **Senator Lena Taylor** highlighted the important role of [women as agents of change](#) and advancing peace in a piece in the *Lexington Courier-Journal*. **Senator Lena Taylor** of Wisconsin wrote a similar piece for the *Milwaukee Courier* which highlighted the [importance of UNSCR 1325](#) and the inclusion of women in all peacebuilding activities.

Tune in Saturday, January 31, 2015 to listen to the [Women's Media Center \(WMC\) Live with Robin Morgan's interview](#) with WiLL President **Senator Nan Orrock** (GA). You will be able to hear a conversation between Robin Morgan, the award-winning author of over 20 books, political analyst, former editor in chief of *Ms. Magazine*, and, in 2005, co-founder—with Jane Fonda and Gloria Steinem—of The Women's Media Center, and Sen. Orrock looking at the progress women are making as leaders and how much further we have to go.

We want to work with you on writing an op-ed or letter to the editor! Media placement ramps up your profile and educates your voters, with multiple chances to Facebook, tweet, and post on your website. For assistance, please contact Senator Sandy Pappas (sandy@wand.org).

Congratulations!

We extend our congratulations to WiLL President **Senator Nan Orrock**, who was

awarded the AFL-CIO's [Eye on the Prize](#) award which is given to leaders who exemplify Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s message, and to WiLL Vice President **Senator Sandy Pappas** (MN), who received an award from the [Minnesota Women's Consortium](#) for her work on the Women's Economic Security Act (WESA) in the Minnesota Senate.

Capitol Hill Update

Congress Sworn In



On January 6, 2015 the 114th Congress was sworn in. WAND and WiLL were happy to see some familiar faces who successfully won their respective races, such as [Senator Jeanne Shaheen \(D-NH\)](#). We were particularly excited to see that [Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence \(D-MI-14\)](#) won her race and are expecting a great first term for her.

State of the Union

President Obama presented his State of the Union Address on January 20, 2015. While the President did not mention much about Pentagon spending or defense-related budget priorities, he did make several remarks regarding negotiations with Iran, calling for diplomacy. Additionally, he touched on current women's issues and the need to support these issues as a nation. You can find a full transcript of the President's 2015 State of the Union Address [here](#).

Budget Priorities

The President's Budget Request will be released on February 2, outlining the President's vision of the budget for the coming year. As state legislators, we know all too well the impact that federal budgeting has on the states. In response to the President's budget, WiLL will be sending a letter to Congress urging consideration and prioritization of domestic needs and true human security over excessive and wasteful Pentagon

spending. We urge you to add your name to this important message! The budget letter will be available for signatures in early February and sent to Congress in late March. For more information about the budget letter, please contact Adzi Vokhiwa at 202-544-5055 ext. 1 or avokhiwa@wand.org.

Nuclear Weapons

On Thursday, January 8, Secretary of State John Kerry swore in [Frank Rose](#) as Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control, Verification and Compliance at a ceremony at the State Department. WAND strongly supported the Assistant Secretary's confirmation through [correspondence](#) and [grassroots efforts](#).

Women, Peace, and Security

On November 17-20, 2014, our coalition of U.S. women legislators and women parliamentarians from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Morocco, and Egypt, met in Rabat, Morocco for the conference "Advancing the Role of Women Political Leaders in Peace and Security," in partnership with the EastWest Institute's Parliamentarians Network for Conflict Prevention (PN). The report from the conference is now available [here](#).

Events Update

WAND's webinar on January 7, 2015, "Preventing a Nuclear-Armed Iran through Diplomacy," featured Kelsey Davenport, Director for Nonproliferation Policy at the Arms Control Association and Jamal Abdi, Policy Director of the National Iranian American Council. The presenters shared the latest news concerning negotiations with Iran, how the domestic political debate is playing out in the halls of Congress, and what you can do to support diplomacy. You can view a recording of this webinar [here](#).

Connect with WiLL

For the latest on WiLL events and news, be sure to follow [@WomenLegisLobby](#) on [Twitter](#) and friend WiLL on [Facebook](#). We wish you well in your current sessions!

Sincerely,



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