

Welcome to the Women Legislators' Lobby's (WiLL) October 2012 e-newsletter! We value your input as we share updates and breaking news on WiLL events and member activities.

## WiLL in the News

### International Peace Day

September 21 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Peace Day. Thanks to the WiLL members who submitted op-eds reminding us about the unique and valuable perspectives women bring to the table in peace negotiations. **Rep. Karen Camper** (TN) expressed her [deep and profound appreciation for peace](#) as an Army veteran. **Sen. Mary Jo McGuire** (MN) highlighted that [non-traditional approaches women bring to peace agreements are often the most effective](#). **Rep. Rena Moran** (MN) recounted a harrowing [personal encounter with violence and called for sustainable peace](#) both at home and abroad. These op-eds also supported the [Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2012](#), recently introduced in Congress to support women's participation in peace-building processes.

### Budget Priorities

As a mother and former teacher, **Rep. Anna Tovar** (AZ) shared her [commitment to providing students with a quality education](#) and cautioned against the economic harm that could result from under-funding education. Former **State Sen. Becky Lourey** (MN), writing as the mother of a U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 who was killed in action in Iraq, advocated that [cutting the education budget to protect the Pentagon budget is an enormous disservice](#) to our nation's current and future military leaders.

In Minnesota, WiLL Vice President **Sen. Sandy Pappas** worked with the [MN Arms Spending Alternative Project](#) (MN ASAP) to support a St. Paul City Council resolution calling for a reduction in Pentagon spending. After the St. Paul Council's unanimous favorable vote on October 10, Sen. Pappas spoke to local press applauding the resolution and emphasizing that wasteful Pentagon spending should be redirected to meet local needs. St. Paul is amongst a handful of cities nationwide who have formally recognized that reductions in federal Pentagon spending would benefit their communities. Read more [here](#).



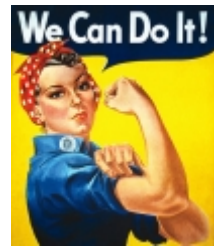
## Take Action

### W/iLL Builds International Bridge

On September 25, **Rep. Karen Camper** (TN), **Sen. Barbara Favola** (VA), **Del. Ana Sol Gutiérrez** (MD), **Sen. Nan Orrock** (GA), **Del. Joseline Peña-Melnyk** (MD), **Sen. Charleta Tavares** (OH), and former **Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple** (VA) met with the **Hon. Shinkai Karokhail**, renowned women's activist and Member of the National Assembly of Afghanistan and the **Hon. Donya Aziz**, Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan in Washington, DC. These meetings, in partnership with the EastWest Institute, focused on building a coalition of women political leaders from around the world and developing joint advocacy points on issues of common concern.

## Men Rule

WAND/W/iLL's national webinar on October 11<sup>th</sup> featured **Dr. Jennifer Lawless**, Director of the Women in Politics Institute and Associate Professor of Government at American University. Based on her report "[\*Men Rule: The Continued Under-Representation of Women in U.S. Politics\*](#)," Dr. Lawless reviewed the persistent trend of U.S. women being under-represented in state and national politics and the factors that often discourage women from running for office. Her excellent presentation addressed how to increase the numbers of women candidates. For more information on this webinar, please click [here](#).



## W/iLL Members Join WAND Boards

We would like to recognize and welcome new members to the WAND Education Fund Board of Directors: **Rep. Karen Camper** (TN), **Asm. Maggie Carlton** (NV), **Del. Ana Sol Gutiérrez** (MD), **Sen. Lena Taylor** (WI), **Rep. Anna Tovar** (AZ), and **Rep. Angela Williams** (CO); and to the WAND, Inc. Board of Directors: **Rep. Joni Jenkins** (KY), **Rep. Phyllis Kahn** (MN), **Rep. Jennifer Seelig** (UT), and **Del. Jeion Ward** (VA).

## Upcoming Events

**Save the Date! 2013 W/iLL Conference | Sept. 29-Oct. 1 | Washington, DC**

W/iLL is a program of [Women's Action for New Directions](#)