

WiLL

Women Legislators' Lobby



Welcome to the Women Legislators' Lobby's (WiLL) October 2013 e-newsletter:

2013 WiLL/WAND National Women's Leadership Conference



The 2013 WiLL/WAND National Women's

Leadership Conference, "Women at the Tables of Power," was a huge success! More than 160 women state legislators and community leaders from 35 states, as well as women parliamentarians from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt, and Morocco, attended the conference in Washington, DC. Featured presenters included noted pollster **Celinda Lake**, National Education Association Vice President **Lily Eskelsen García**, and **Ambassador Melanne Vermeer**, as well as Members of Congress including **Congresswoman Gwen Moore (WI-4)** and **Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-9)**.

Congresswoman Donna Edwards (MD-4) was honored as our 2013 WiLL/WAND Torchbearer, and delivered inspired remarks in the face of the government shut-down. WAND President Emerita Sayre Sheldon was recognized as Volunteer of the Millennium, and Caitlin Worm and Janice Zagorin received Janice Kelly Volunteer of the Year Awards. **Our impressive 2013 Pacesetters included [Sen. Sharon Weston Broome](#) (LA), **Rep. Vanessa Brown (PA)**, **Rep. Sarah Buxton (VT)**, **Sen. Barbara Favola (VA)**, **Sen. Audrey Gibson (FL)**, **Rep. Jill Krowinski (VT)**, **Rep. Ellen Cogen Lipton (MI)**, **Rep. Rena Moran (MN)**, **Rep. Stacey Newman (MO)**, **Del. Joseline Peña-Melnyk (MD)**, and **Rep. Diane Russell (ME)**, recognized for their service and commitment to sound, progressive policy.**



Capitol Hill Update

In an appalling show of partisanship and political brinksmanship, Congress opted to shut down the federal government rather than agree on a funding level for FY 2014, which began October 2014. WiLL and WAND members were in Washington DC on October 1, and urged their Congressional representatives to “shut down the shutdown” and instead find a compromise that would re-open the government and provide crucial services for their constituents. The shutdown lasted 16 days, and was ultimately “shut down” by women leaders in the Senate, whose savviness and willingness to compromise helped the nation avert economic

disaster. For more on these incredible women, [read here](#). For more about specific impacts of the federal government shut down, [read here](#).

WiLL in the News

Wisconsin Senator Lena Taylor published an op-ed detailing how [women, both here and internationally, make a huge difference when they win seats at the tables of power](#), and particularly their important role as peacemakers in conflict resolution.



Past Events

Webinar: Effective Implementation of SCR 1325: Gender Equality in Peace & Security

On Tuesday, October 22, 2013, WAND hosted Sahana Dharmapuri, The Gender Advisor, for a presentation which highlighted how gender equality in security and peace-making increases the effectiveness of peace negotiations, peacekeeping, and protection of civilians. [Click here to view a recording.](#)

Webinar: Introduction to Social and Political Empowerment

On Monday, September 16, 2013, WAND hosted a webinar featuring a presentation from Jamila Raqib, Executive Director of the [Albert Einstein Institution](#). This webinar introduced the technique of nonviolent action and its role in preserving and extending democratic practices and human rights. Jamila discussed political power and its sources, the operation of nonviolent struggle, and the ways in which the technique contributes to social and political empowerment. [Click here to view a recording.](#)

Connect with WiLL

For the latest on WiLL events and news, be sure to follow @WomenLegisLobby on [Twitter](#), friend WiLL on [Facebook](#), and visit our website www.willwand.org