

WOMEN AT THE TABLES OF POWER



**2013 WiLL/WAND
National Women's
Leadership Conference**
*September 29 - October 1, 2013
Washington, DC*

WOMEN. POWER. PEACE.



Cover: U.S. Congresswoman Donna Edwards (MD-4); MP Shinkai Karokhail, Afghanistan Parliament; Hon. Melanne Verveer; U.S. Congresswoman Gwen Moore (WI-4); Lily Eskelsen García, NEA Vice President; State Senator Nan Grogan Orrock (GA), Will President; Susan Shaer, WAND Executive Director; MN Senate President Sandra Pappas, Will Vice President

Leading the Way to a More Secure Future!

Women leaders from 35 states and Afghanistan, Egypt, Morocco, and Pakistan met in the nation's capitol for the WILL/WAND biennial conference, in resolve that women be present at the tables of power – domestically and internationally.



- **On the very first day of the federal government shutdown, despite the widespread disruption, our conferees held 90 Capitol Hill meetings with Members of Congress** and advocated for balanced budget priorities that focus on the needs of people, communities and states.
- **Congresswoman Donna Edwards (MD-4) was honored as our 2013 Torchbearer at a Capitol Hill reception.** The first African-American woman elected to Congress from Maryland, Edwards is a strong and consistent voice for balanced budget priorities, women's rights, peace, and environmentalism. Past Torchbearers include U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen, former Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, Marian Wright Edelman, U.S. Senator Carol Moseley Braun, Helen Thomas, former Attorney General Janet Reno, Eve Ensler, Barbara Lee, Philanthropist, and Coretta Scott King.
- **Women parliamentarians from Afghanistan, Egypt, Morocco, and Pakistan joined the conference,** sharing international perspectives and incredible accounts of courageous leadership. Participants gained further insight into the struggles of their Afghan sisters during an **exclusive screening of Abigail Disney's *Peace Unveiled*, featuring Afghan Parliamentarian Hon. Shinkai Karokhail.**
- **Ambassador Melanne Verveer, the first United States Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues,** highlighted the need to empower women globally as decision-makers in creating lasting peace.
- **NEA Vice President Lily Eskelsen García** underscored the urgency of our work with a rousing call to prioritize our nation's public education and address the challenges faced by working families. **Noted pollster Celinda Lake** presented compelling findings about women's opinions on education, infrastructure, jobs, and the economy, as well as their opposition to additional state and local budget cuts.
- **Eleven outstanding state legislators were recognized as 2013 WILL Pacesetters** – women recognized for their dedication to sound, progressive policy and their groundbreaking leadership in the states.
- **Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-9),** a former WILL member, recounted her inspiring journey from the Arizona State House to the U.S. Congress, and successful models of bipartisan cooperation in the current climate. As the government shutdown began, **Congresswoman Gwen Moore (WI-4),** a WILL Pacesetter, offered inspiring remarks to conferees as they prepared to meet with their Members of Congress and ask them to "shut down the shutdown."
- **Experts highlighted the critical role of women as effective leaders and decision-makers in state capitols and the U.S. Capitol,** as well as the nation's fiscal crisis, the need to set national spending priorities in favor of middle class and working families, and ways to "move the money" away from wasteful Pentagon spending and towards the needs of the American people.
- **In the 113th Congress, 50 women come from the ranks of WILL/WAND.**



Pictured (from top to bottom)

1. Hon. Elay Ershad, National Assembly of Afghanistan; Shahla Ahmadi, Pres. of Afghan-American Women Association; Hon. Melanne Verveer; Hon. Shinkai Karokhail **2.** LaShawndra Vernon; State Representative Karen Camper (TN), WAND Education Fund Board Member; State Senator Lena Taylor, WAND Ed. Fund Board Member; Hon. Marianne Malak, Parliament of Egypt; St. Rep. Johnnie Turner (TN) **3.** St. Rep. Alice Peisch (MA); St. Rep. Kay Khan (MA); former St. Sen. Pam Resor (MA), and former St. Rep. Carol Donovan (MA) **4.** Anna Deister, EastWest Institute; Tanya Henderson, WAND Public Policy Dir.; Agnes Venema, EastWest Institute **5.** 2013 Conference participants.

Leading the Way to Capitol Hill!



2013 WiLL Pacesetters

Sen. Sharon Weston Broome (LA) Rep. Jill Krowinski (VT)
 Rep. Vanessa Brown (PA) Rep. Ellen Cogen Lipton (MI)
 Rep. Sarah Buxton (VT) Rep. Rena Moran (MN)
 Sen. Barbara Favola (VA) Rep. Stacey Newman (MO)
 Sen. Audrey Gibson (FL) Del. Joseline Peña-Melnyk (MD)
 Rep. Diane Russell (ME)



Pictured (from top to bottom; left to right) 6. U.S. Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-9) 7. Becky Rafter, Georgia WAND Ed. Dir.; St. Rep. Karen Bennett (GA) 8. St. Sen. Sandy Pappas (MN), WiLL VP; U.S. Rep. Donna Edwards (MD-4); St. Sen. Nan Orrock (GA), WiLL Pres.; Susan Shaer, WAND Ed. Dir.; Lydia Potts; U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore (WI-4); Kelli Hunnicutt; Isabelle Potts 10. Karen Jacob, WAND, Inc. Board Chair 11. St. Rep. Betty Reed (FL); St. Rep. Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed (FL) 12. WiLL Pacesetters with WiLL VP St. Sen. Sandy Pappas (MN) and WiLL Pres. St. Sen. Nan Orrock (GA) (both center). 13. St. Del. Meshea Poore (WV); St. Rep. Angela Williams (CO), WAND Ed. Fund Board Member 14. St. Sen. Charleta Tavares (OH), WAND Ed. Fund Board Chair 15. The Arkansas delegation meets with U.S. Sen. Mark Pryor (AR) 16. St. Rep. Jessica Farrar (TX); St. Sen. Angela Giron (CO); Capt. Anu Bhagwati (ret.), Service Women's Action Network Ed. Dir.; St. Sen. Nan Orrock (GA), WiLL Pres.

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Progress Women
Service Women's Action Network



The Women Legislators' Lobby (WiLL) is a national, nonpartisan network of women state legislators who work together to influence federal policy and budget priorities.



WAND (Women's Action for New Directions) Education Fund educates the public and opinion leaders about the need to reduce violence and militarism in society, and to redirect excessive military spending to unmet human and environmental needs.

Women Legislators' Lobby (WiLL) • willwand.org

WAND Education Fund • wand.org

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