

## WOMEN'S ACTION for NEW DIRECTIONS

### WOMEN IN POWER

# WAND PAC

REPORT 2004

### NEW PROGRESSIVE WOMEN IN CONGRESS

WAND is proud to announce that two new WAND/WILL-endorsed women are coming to Congress in January. All 34 WAND/WILL women already in Congress will also be returning.

We're also happy to note that WAND/WILL member of the U.S. House, Cynthia McKinney, will be returning to Congress from Georgia. Her long commitment to WAND priorities—including arms trade issues and peace—has been missed during her absence.

#### GWEN MOORE

**U.S. HOUSE (WI-4)**


Gwen Moore comes to Congress with 16 years of legislative experience and a strong track record on family and children's issues.

#### DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

**U.S. HOUSE (FL-20)**


WILL member Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D) was elected at age 26 to the Florida House, the youngest

woman in Florida's history to earn that distinction, and has also served her community through her leadership in numerous organizations.

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### LOOKING AT THE 2004 ELECTION

#### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

#### SOME THOUGHTS ON THE 2004 ELECTION

by Susan Shaer, WAND Executive Director

The lights did not go out November 3rd. The energy didn't stop. It was a long, hard struggle, and it was a hard one to lose. But there is much work to be done, and we can and will stand and fight.

While some would like to cast the victory on November 2 as a sweeping mandate, millions of us know better. We know that the progressive movement started something new, something big, and that it is the beginning of a new era in American politics. Half the American electorate holds beliefs similar to ours.



We will mobilize, re-energize, re-engage. Because we know that we must. It's too important to who we are as

a country, as a world, and as individuals. Look what's on the table: War and peace. Nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear terrorism. The needs of people versus the demands of the Neocons.

Susan (center) at the WAND Education Fund Speaker Series event featuring Seymour M. Hersh (left), who spoke on "Chain of Command: The Road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib." Right is the publisher of *Mother Jones*, Jay Harris.

Our task in the years ahead is to take those issues to the people, and take those people to the Congress and the President.

Thanks to all who worked so hard, in the rain and the dark, on weekends and nights, all day, every day. It was worth it. Millions agree. Those millions still need our energy.

#### What have we learned?

America is a country that cares deeply about "moral values." We know that. Progressive political actions do reflect values. Peace. Justice. Equal rights. Values of merit.

The test is to step boldly into the moral debate and to make clear how our values translate into policy and action. And to mobilize the millions who agree with those principles upon which our country was built.

We know we've had the facts on our side for years; we've relied on using these facts in the national dialogue. Now more of us need to voice the moral arguments that are the basis for all our efforts. This requires us to use different language when we talk about what is important to us. And to bring our vision and voices into the debate.

WAND has always addressed issues from our hearts and our heads. We talk about the federal budget representing our nation's moral principles and reflecting its priorities. If we spend all our money on weapons and not people, that says something about us. If we have nuclear weapons, that says we believe they are of use.



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2004 ELECTION SPECIAL EDITION

—continued from front

WAND will continue to lead the effort to speak from the heart, and bring the facts to back us up. We have the voices, the vision, the energy, and the power of fabulous women.

**In the meantime, we have work to do**

Indeed, we have to get ready to keep up the struggle for the next four years.

As he made clear at his press conference after the election, George W. Bush believes he has amassed “political capital,” and he intends to spend it. Doubtless on some core beliefs:

- Bush doctrine supports preemptive war as justifiable.
- Bush decreed that international law doesn’t apply to the U.S.
- Bush budgets assume that there is a never-ending supply of dollars for war and war weapons.

**You know this in your heart, but it’s worth affirming:**

- Yes, nuclear weapons are expensive, illegal, and destructive. They are also morally reprehensible, and have the power to wipe out life on this planet. All religions agree that life is sacred.
- Missile defense is expensive and useless. But it also puts the security blanket in the wrong place. The heavens are no place for weapons.
- War is reprehensible, and dangerous to life and the planet. Never-ending war is value-less.
- Women care about values passionately. We need to run for office and find a seat at the tables of power. Then we can make policies that feed people, preserve the environment, protect our families, educate children, and provide real security.

For more about reframing our arguments in moral terms, check out the works of our good friend George Lakoff, at this web address: [www.rockridgeinstitute.org/people/lakoff](http://www.rockridgeinstitute.org/people/lakoff). He says simply that *values trump facts*.

Some of the ways Bush will make these beliefs into politics:

- Bush will propose new nuclear weapons.
- Bush will assume we can use new nuclear weapons on the battlefield.
- Bush will implement unnecessary, costly national missile defense, including launching weapons into space.
- Bush may reject the notion of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (the UN will soon be evaluating the results of the last five years and looking forward in order to strengthen treaty commitments).
- Bush will assume war is the answer — possibly in Iran and North Korea — for regime change.
- Bush will escalate the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Before all the votes were counted, Bush embarked on a bloody, relentless assault on Fallujah. We cannot let this administration believe they have unlimited power and license to do what they will.

**Don’t let this election go to their heads.** Millions of citizens share our concerns. When we get together, think how powerful we can be. Join us as we move forward, not backward.

The year ahead will be full of actions. WAND will work to educate, activate, and make a difference. We will focus on the issues that matter to us, and we will rally our people to stand up and speak out.

With your help, we will articulate the concerns of millions of us who voted for a better world. We will tell the Bush administration and the Congress that we will work with them to craft policies that meet the values and needs of all the people.

Let’s cooperate to save the planet.

It’s never over. We live to fight another day. Keep the faith and pass it on.

Thank you for all you’ve done and will do in the months and years ahead.

*Susan Shaer*



**Left:** Stumping in New Hampshire, we see WAND National Field Director Tanya Wallace-Hargro, Peggy Kerry, WAND Board member Dorothy Rupert (CO), WAND Board member Susan Cundiff (OR), WAND Education Fund Board member State Rep. Joyce Elliott (AR), WAND Executive Director Susan Shaer.



**Right:** Some of the 64 from Michigan who attended the “August Action” of Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance (OREPA). Current WAND members attending: Kim Joy Bergier, Nancy Adadow Gray, Sigrid Dale. Picture taken by John Donabedian at Bissell Park, Oak Ridge, TN, August 8, 2004.

**WAND women hit the road in 2004**



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