

# Leading the Way to a More Secure Future!

Inspired by outstanding women, instilled with a sense of purpose, WAND and WiLL women from 30 states met for our 10th biannual conference in DC to address real security at home and abroad.



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**WAND activists and women state legislators networked, shared, learned, and collaborated on renewing our commitment to advance our numbers at the tables of power, as women in government and community roles, to work for positive change across the country.**

## Highlights

- In **more than 100 Capitol Hill meetings**, our conferees advocated with their Members of Congress for re-allocating non-essential military spending to address long-term security by investing in good jobs, education, infrastructure, and health care.
- **We celebrated the growing number of women** with vision, talent, and promise for higher leadership.
- **Truman National Security Project's** highly rated training boosted our ability to engage with voters, the media and Congress on local, state, and national security needs.
- **Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis**, a former state legislator and WiLL member, was saluted as our 2009 Torchbearer for her commitment to working families; she joins past honorees Coretta Scott King, Janet Reno, Marian Wright Edelman, Helen Thomas, Eve Ensler, Carol Moseley Braun, and Millie Jeffrey.
- **Congresswoman Judy Chu (CA)**, a WiLL member and the first Chinese-American woman in the U.S. Congress, keynoted the Torchbearer Reception with an inspiring account of her public service.
- Women leaders from the labor movement — **AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Liz Shuler, SEIU's Merle Cuttita and Amy Dacey, and NEA's Lily Eskelsen** — addressed the challenges faced by working women and families in the economic downturn, and outlined strategies to secure a decent standard of living and a brighter future for America's workforce.
- **Ten outstanding state legislators were recognized as 2009 WiLL Pacesetters** for their leadership and demonstrated commitment to excellence in public service.
- Smart use of **new media and social networking tools** were featured by American Forum, Digital Sisters, and Firedoglake, as a way to engage the public and influence important state and federal policy debates.
- Experts highlighted **education, human services, and health care issues**, the fiscal crisis, and the necessity to **re-prioritize national spending** to meet constituent needs.
- Veterans explored the emerging needs of **women in the military**, and the challenges faced by veterans and their families.
- Women authors inspired with their works about the political impact of women at home and abroad. **Former Ambassador Linda Tarr-Whelan** shared a compelling vision of transforming institutions through women's leadership with her book *Women Lead the Way*.
- **High-ranking Department of Labor officials** hosted our delegation for an update on agency initiatives and a review of new research commissioned by WAND on jobs production in health, education, and construction investments.
- **In the 111th Congress, 48 women come from the ranks of WiLL/WAND.** Three Cabinet members — Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, and Labor Secretary Hilda Solis — were WiLL state legislators.

- 1:** State Sen. Tanya Cook (NE) and Congresswoman Barbara Lee (CA)
- 2:** (l to r): State Rep. Becky Edwards (UT), State Rep. Tricia Beck (UT) and National Education Association Vice-President Lily Eskelsen
- 3:** (l to r): Sam Bennett, President, Women's Campaign Forum; WiLL President State Sen. Nan Grogan Orrock (GA); WAND Executive Director Susan Shaer; Councilwoman Charleta Tavares, chair WAND Education Fund; Laura Fruge, EMILY's LIST
- 4:** North Carolina WAND activists Isabelle Potts, Kelli Hunnicut, and Shirley McClain

The WiLL conference is always among the very best! Information, networking, and action.

Minnesota State Senator Sandy Pappas, MN

## Leading the Way to Capitol Hill!



**Our delegations from 31 states headed to Capitol Hill for more than 100 meetings with Members of Congress.**

We discussed economic, budget, and security issues with our Senators and Representatives.

- 1:** Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid with State Sen. Maggie Carlton (NV) and State Asm. Ellen Spiegel (NV)
- 2:** U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions (AL) and State Sen. Vivian Davis Figures (AL)
- 3:** Congressman Jared Polis (CO) with the Honorable Dorothy Rupert (CO), WAND board member and former state senator

## Leading the Way to Honoring Great Women!



### 2009 WILL Pacesetters

WILL Pacesetters are recognized for their noteworthy legislative service, contributions to sound, progressive public policy, and groundbreaking leadership.

Rep. Roberta Abdul-Salaam (GA)	Asm. Barbara S. Lifton (NY)
Rep. Trisha S. Beck (UT)	Sen. Mee Moua (MN)
Sen. Vivian Davis Figures (AL)	Rep. Amy G. Rice (RI)
Rep. Lois Marie Delmore (ND)	Sen. Patricia Torres Ray (MN)
Rep. Delia Garcia (KS)	Rep. Kathy Webb (AR)

- 1:** WAND executive director Susan Shaer and NOW President Terry O'Neill
- 2:** WAND board chair Karen Jacob and Alissa Wilson, American Friends Service Committee
- 3:** U.S. Rep. Judy Chu (CA) and State Rep. Elesha Gayman (IA)
- 4:** 2009 WILL Pacesetters
- 5:** US Department of Labor's Gerri Fiala accepts 2009 Torchbearer Award from SEIU's Amy Dacey on behalf of Secretary Hilda Solis
- 6:** 2009 Janice Kelley awardees: Doloris Cogan, Indiana WAND and Krista Brewer, Georgia WAND Board Chair

# Conference Sponsors

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**WiLL** is a national, non-partisan network of women state legislators who work together to influence federal policy and budget priorities.  
[www.willwand.org](http://www.willwand.org)



**WAND** empowers women to act politically to reduce violence and militarism, and redirect excessive military resources toward unmet human and environmental needs.  
[www.wand.org](http://www.wand.org)

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**Women Legislators' Lobby (WiLL) • [www.willconference.org](http://www.willconference.org)**  
**Women's Action for New Directions Education Fund • [www.WANDEducationFund.org](http://www.WANDEducationFund.org)**

Susan Shaer, WAND Executive Director • State Sen. Nan Grogan Orrock (GA), WiLL President

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WOMEN TAKING SEATS AT TABLES OF POWER FOR OVER 25 YEARS

# 2009 WiLL/WAND CONFERENCE REPORT

## WOMEN AT THE TABLE OF POWER



The most informative conference on issues that affect our whole world. Great feedback from all three of my Congressmen.

Michigan State Senator Martha Scott

**October 4 - 6, 2009**

Washington, DC

*top, l to r:* Liz Shuler, Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO; Genevieve Chase, Executive Director, American Women Veterans; Amy Dacey, Government Relations Director, SEIU; State Sen. Vivian Davis Figures (AL); Congresswoman Donna Edwards (MD)

*bottom, l to r:* Hon. Linda Tarr-Whelan, *Women Lead the Way: Your Guide to Stepping Up to Leadership and Changing the World*; Congresswoman Judy Chu (CA); Congresswoman Barbara Lee (CA); Councilwoman Charleta Tavares, WAND Education Fund chair; Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director, Coalition on Human Needs

