



## **Training Session Speaker Bios**

### **Media Training – North Fields**

*Kitty Kurth & Kevin Lampe, Kurth & Lampe*

Kurth Lampe is a Chicago-based strategic communications firm with an international reach with Chicago know how. Complicated ideas are turned into compelling and persuasive messages.

Whether it is Public Relations, Crisis Communications, Grassroots Lobbying, Public Affairs, Issue Management, Political Consulting, Litigation Support, Global Outreach or another Communication Solution, Kurth Lampe is ready.

Kitty Kurth is President of Kurth Lampe, a political consulting/public relations firm she founded with her husband, Kevin Lampe in 1996. Kurth has provided individuals, corporations and organizations with strategic communications development, training, implementation, long term message development and crisis communications and reputation management. Kurth regularly provides training for candidates and campaign staff for the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Women's Campaign Fund, National Women's Political Caucus, and other groups. In 2001, the U.S. State Department sent Kurth and Lampe to Uganda to conduct campaign-training workshops for women Members of Parliament, candidates, and activists.

Kevin Lampe, Executive Vice President, is a seasoned political strategist, organizer and media relations expert. Whether it is advance work for the White House or organizing house to house, he produces results.

Lampe's professional experience includes political campaigns ranging from local library boards to presidential campaigns. He has worked during each presidential election cycle since Governor Mike Dukakis in 1988. He served in variety of senior staff roles – including Director of Communications – for presidential candidates. Additionally, he served as an advance man for President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

### **Minority Outreach – South Fields**

*Cook county Recorder, Karen Yarbrough*

Native of Washington, D.C., a licensed real estate broker and insurance agent; Recorder Yarbrough is a full time administrator for Cook County Illinois. She has a B.A. in Business Management from Chicago State University and an M.A. in Inner City Studies from Northeastern Illinois University. She has served on numerous boards, enhancing the quality of life for citizens and has received many prestigious awards highlighting her advocacy, community service and legislative work. In 2011, she was selected for the

position of Assistant Majority Leader in the House, a role that allowed her to be a stronger advocate for her district and the people of Illinois.

In 2009 she helped pass the most significant package of ethics reform in many years, getting to the heart of the “pay to play” apparatus that allowed our former governor to sell Illinois to the highest bidder. She also passed the first comprehensive public works program in ten years to create jobs and stimulate the economy through infrastructure improvements.

Karen’s legislative themes were public health, public safety, and social justice. She was a stalwart fighter to increase assistance for those incarcerated, and funding for programs that provide a “Second Chance.” She was the leading spokesperson in Springfield for Cease-Fire, the innovative anti-violence program that relies on cooperation and community involvement rather than police force and violence. In 2007, Karen successfully fought the tobacco lobby as the chief sponsor of “Smoke Free Illinois” and made Illinois the first Midwestern state to go “smoke-free.” She’s taken on powerful real estate interests in her pursuit of “source of income” legislation that prohibits landlords from refusing to rent to those on subsidies. In 2011, Yarbrough, as chief House Sponsor helped make history by passing legislation to end the death penalty in Illinois. This legislation was signed into law by Gov. Pat Quinn making it the 16<sup>th</sup> state to do so.

Karen and her husband, Henderson, the Mayor of the village of Maywood, have a blended family of six and share twelve grandchildren.

## **Party Building – Meadows**

*Scott Doubet,*

*Executive Director of the Illinois Democrat Chairman’s Associations*

As the Executive Director for the, Illinois Democratic County Chairmen's Association, Scott oversees the day to day operation of the organization. He is the Statewide Administrator, Votebuilder, the database that organizes information about voters for the county organizations and candidates. Scott has been a volunteer and staffer for all levels of campaigns. He spent 2.5 years living in Russia and Ukraine and speaks Russian fluently and attended University of Illinois.

## **Fundraising – South Fields**

*Patricia Reynes, Emily’s List*

Pat Reynes is a business woman who spent time in the Fortune 500 business world before starting her own high tech recruiting company. In 2007, at the behest of one of her friends and clients, former Congresswoman Melissa Bean, Pat joined her campaign to help change the business of politics. After being Melissa’s ‘right hand’ for 5 years, Pat joined EMILY’s List in 2011 to engage more directly in enabling women to gain power and achieve parity in the ranks of elected officials.

## **Youth Outreach - Meadows**

*Tori Taylor, National College Democrats*

A recent graduate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a degree in Political Science, Tori has been involved in Democratic politics on a local, state, and national level. She got her state in politics working on Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign in 2008 when she was 18. She moved on to work on

numerous political campaigns in positions ranging from field management, fundraising, and communications.

Democratic organizations like College Democrats have played a large role in Tori's political experiences over the past few years. She served as President of the UNC Charlotte College Democrats and President of the College Democrats of North Carolina before being unanimously elected National Council Chair for College Democrats of America in June 2011. Her accomplishments within College Democrats include organizing the first ever Historically Black College and University Leadership Conference for students in North and South Carolina, writing and implementing ambitious student field plans for the 2010 midterm elections, chairing the 2010 CDA National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., and accepting the 2011 CDA State Federation of the Year Award on behalf of the College Democrats of North Carolina. Tori was also awarded 2011 Mecklenburg County Young Democrat of the Year and 2012 North Carolina Outstanding Young Democrat for her contributions to Democratic Party organizing in North Carolina.

Outside of College Democrats, Tori served on the North Carolina Democratic Party Executive Council, State Executive Committee, and 2012 DNC Delegate Selection Committee. After completing an internship with United States Senator Kay Hagan, she was appointed Interim Executive Director of the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party, the largest county party in North Carolina encompassing the Charlotte area. She went on to finish the 2011 election cycle and 2012 primary election working for a DC-based political consulting firm doing political research and part-time at a Raleigh, N.C.-based fundraising firm. Most recently, Tori served on the Public Engagement team for the Democratic National Convention Committee, tasked with all of the youth outreach and engagement for the DNC Convention. She is currently taking the fall semester off to work full-time as a GOTV Regional Director for Obama for America - Ohio and plans to attend graduate school in the spring of 2013.

Tori serves on the Democratic National Committee, DNC Executive Committee, and on the DNC Youth Council

## **She Should Run – North Fields**

*Clare Breshnahan, She Should Run*

As Programs Director of She Should Run, Clare oversees the operations, marketing, and outreach for She Should Run programs, including national and local partnerships. She also manages the WCF PAC endorsement application process and WCF's premier Fellowship Program. She comes to WCF/SSR from the Girl Scouts of the USA, where she served as the Public Policy and Advocacy Associate for their government relations office. Clare led GSUSA's legislative and public affairs strategies for promoting healthy media images and oversaw grassroots and national partnerships elevating Girl Scouts' advocacy efforts. Clare graduated from American University with B.A. in Communications, Law, Economics, and Government (C.L.E.G.), and is a graduate of the American University Women and Politics Institute's WeLEAD bipartisan leadership training program.

She Should Run is dedicated to dramatically increasing the number of women in public leadership by eliminating and overcoming barriers to success.