



2014 ANNUAL CONVENTION SPEAKERS

JUNE 7, 2014

Illinois AFL-CIO Office, 534 S. 2nd St., Springfield
Executive Mansion, 410 E. Jackson, Springfield

Fighting the Republican Noise Machine

Stan Piskorski



Stan Piskorski has been involved with the art and science of persuasion since becoming a sales person soon after graduating college. Nearly 25 years ago, he became a sales trainer and started teaching others how to persuade more effectively. Preceding his sales career, he was involved in politics, although on the other side of the aisle.

He rose from being a leader in a school Teen-Age Republican club, to being a state officer in the Wisconsin College Republican. He was an active volunteer in the dreaded “Committee to Re-Elect the President” for Richard Nixon, was campaign manager for a primary campaign for the Georgia State House of Representatives, and worked as a paid staffer for the Ford primary campaign in Wisconsin in 1976.

After moving to Chicago in the early 80s, he became a Democrat — first for practical reasons (a Republican in the city of Chicago?... Pleeese!) and then for philosophical reasons.

The further to the right the GOP went, the further to the left Stan went. Now he finds even Dennis Kucinich too conservative for his tastes. He started become active in politics again (this time as an enlightened Democrat) in 2008 working for local candidates.

In addition to training sales people, Stan has been involved in helping speakers become more effective for almost 30 years. He is an award winning speaker in Toastmasters International, President of a Toastmasters Club that grooms professional speakers and was a mentor for “PEACE!” the Toastmasters club for Democrats in DuPage County.

In his “day job” he is a field instructor (sales trainer) for Canon USA.

This background, as well as study into new findings about the human brain, decision making, behavioral economics and semantics; make him uniquely qualified to explore Fighting the Republican Noise Machine especially in the “red” counties in Illinois.

Media Training

Kitty Kurth and Kevin 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.

Next Generation: Engaging Young People in the Political Process

Jill Morgenthaler, Emily Hampsten, Emily Spangler

– Moderator: Colonel (Ret.) Jill Morgenthaler

Retired Colonel Jill Morgenthaler is a woman of many firsts. She was one of the first women to enter ROTC and train as an equal with men. She was the first woman battalion commander in the 88th Regional Support Command; she was the first woman brigade commander in the 84th Division; and she was the first woman Homeland Security Advisor for the State of Illinois.

The Colonel handled disaster recovery during the San Francisco earthquake, worked as a peacekeeper in Bosnia, and sheltered Kosovar refugees. For her leadership performance in Iraq in 2004, she received the Bronze Star. Upon retirement, the Army awarded her the Legion of Merit.

Jill is a motivational speaker, thrilling audiences with her presentations, *Leadership During Crisis and Change*; *From the Battlefield to the Board Room: Secrets to Lead and Succeed*; and *Herding Cats: Working with the Media During a Crisis*.

McGraw-Hill is publishing her book: *Courage to Take Command: Leadership Lessons From a Military Trailblazer* in November 2014.

– Emily Hampsten, Associate at ASGK Public Strategies

Emily manages clients' media relations, executive positioning and strategic communications

Prior to joining ASGK, Emily worked for the Paid Media department of the Democratic National Committee at the Obama for America headquarters in Chicago. As Competitive Manager, Emily was responsible for tracking paid media in all House and Senate campaigns, as well as the Presidential campaign of 2012.

Emily graduated magna cum laude from DePaul University in Chicago with dual Bachelors of Arts degrees in political science and communication studies.

Emily is a native of Kalamazoo, MI and currently resides in Chicago.

— *Emily Spangler, Student*

In addition to being a high school student, Emily is a progressive Democrat who cares deeply about supporting women's health care issues and encouraging women to serve in public office.

She founded and serves as co-director of progresswomen.com along with Rep. Stacey Newman where she promotes progressive ideas, electing Democratic women, and getting women involved in the political process.

Emily is an aspiring legislator and she resides in Sterling, IL with her family.

Diversity Dialogue **Recorder Karen Yarbrough**



A native of Washington, D.C., a licensed real estate broker and insurance agent, Recorder Yarbrough is a full-time administrator for Cook County Illinois overseeing a \$12 million dollar budget and one hundred-eighty (180) employees, the 2nd largest Recorder's office in the United States.

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.

Previously, Karen served as State Representative for the 7th District for twelve (12) years, which included Chicago's west-side and Proviso western suburbs.

As an Assistant Majority leader in the Illinois House of Representatives, Karen's legislative themes were public health, public safety, and social justice. She has been a stalwart fighter to increase assistance for those incarcerated, and funding for programs that provide a "Second Chance." 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. She sponsored "Quality of Life," a bill using lottery money to fund groups that treat individuals with HIV-AIDS.

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 16th state to do so. Recorder Yarbrough, in her continued pursuit to institute new laws to protect taxpayers and as a chief advocate for property owners in Cook County, advanced three bills

through the legislature in 2013. HB 2832 empowers county recorders to help property owners fight property fraud; HB 2905 raises the penalty for knowingly filing false claims of interest or attempting to cloud a property title from a misdemeanor to a felony; and HB 2269 requires Cook County notaries who validate transfers of property to maintain detailed records of each and forward them to the Cook County Recorder of Deeds office. These bills have all been signed into law by Gov. Pat Quinn.

Karen and her husband, Henderson, have a blended family of six and share twelve grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.