



2016 Grassroots Convening: The Art and Science of Organizing *Speaker Biographies*

Jonathan Poisner

Jonathan Poisner has over 20 years of experience in the nonprofit sector as an organizer, Executive Director, board member, and consultant. Since fall 2009, Poisner has worked as an organizational development consultant, with a focus on strategic and campaign planning, fundraising, and coalition building. Poisner is the author of *Why Organizations Thrive: Lessons*



from the Front Lines for Nonprofit Executive Directors. In 1997, Poisner became Executive Director of the Oregon League of Conservation Voters and its sister organization, OLCV Education Fund. During his twelve years leading OLCV, he grew the combined revenue of OLCV and OLCV Education Fund from \$200,000 to \$1.1 million per year. During his tenure, OLCV's staff grew from just one and a half full time employees to more than 11 FTE, while dramatically increasing its capacity to involve volunteers in all aspects of OLCV's programs. In the last 3 election cycles under his leadership, OLCV involved more than 1000 volunteers in its

outreach to voters. Poisner also oversaw the Oregon Conservation Network, a coalition of more than 45 grassroots and state-wide conservation groups who came together to develop shared priorities. "Priorities for a Healthy Oregon" raised the bar in the Oregon Legislature — helping pass new laws that promote renewable energy, recycle electronic waste, protect farmland, and safeguard clean water.

Tess Fields

Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Tess Fields has worked for the last two decades as a political organizer, organizational leader, and campaign consultant in the Portland, Oregon area and beyond. Fields got her first taste of grassroots organizing by working to recruit students at her Georgia college to attend the "1992 March for Women's Lives" in Washington, D.C. which focused on reproductive rights. Upon graduation, Tess launched her career working for social change. Over the last 20 years, Tess has worked as an organizer for Planned Parenthood, NARAL, Basic Rights Oregon, and the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. She has led public affairs initiatives on some of the most controversial issues in Oregon which have won legislative support, statewide and local ballot initiatives, candidate campaigns, as well as favorable public awareness in local media outlets. In her free time, Tess enjoys being humbled on a daily basis with the support of her two small children, Stryder and Rhone.

