

ORGANIZING QUOTES

When you are tempted to make a statement, ask a question.

Don't tell the people – ask them.

If you think you can do it “for” people, you've stopped understanding what it means to be an organizer.

The initial convert often determines the character of the organization.

90 % of organizing is follow-up.

The duty of the organizer is to provide people with the opportunity to work for what they believe in.

To win the hearts & minds of people, forget the dry facts & statistics; tell them stories that won you to the cause.

It's the way people are that counts, not the way you'd like them to be.

Don't waste time fighting the competition. Use that time to fight the issues & win. That will take care of the competition.

When you are able to take the blame for failure, you are on the way to becoming a good organizer.

Losers are loaded with alibis.

A good organizer is a social arsonist who goes around setting people on fire.

“Some talk change. Others cause it.”

~ The Late US Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey

“Don't try & rebuild a dead organization; start over & build a new one.”

~ Caesar Chavez

“I support unions . . . organized labor gave us a two-day weekend, an eight hour day, health insurance, pensions and other good things. They were not bestowed upon us by a grateful management. They were fought for. What was fought for can and will be taken away, unless it's fought for again.”

~ Garrison Keillor

Host of “A Prairie Home Companion”

“There is, of course, no guarantee of success. But politics is not about observations or predictions. Politics is what we create by what we do, what we hope for, and what we dare to imagine.”

~ Paul Wellstone

The Late US Senator & Organizer Extraordinaire

“Whatever happened to ‘There but for the grace of God go I’? Or ‘Love thy neighbor as thyself’? We need to replace isolationism with fellowship. We need to talk about community, about justice, about the goodness of America . . . We as a country need to realize that we are on a common journey and that we all need to give a little and help one another so we can all get to where we want to go.”

~ US Senator Paul Wellstone
From his book, *The Conscience of a Liberal*

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

~ Margaret Mead

“This is the true joy in life, being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one. Being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I love. I rejoice in life for its own sake.

Life is no brief candle to me; it is a sort of splendid torch which I've got a hold of for the moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.”

~ George Bernard Shaw

“It is our American habit if we find the foundations of our educational structure unsatisfactory to add another story or wing. We find it easier to add a new study or course or kind of school than to recognize existing conditions so as to meet the need.”

~John Dewey

“Let our advance worrying become advance thinking and planning.”

~Winston Churchill

“If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always gotten.”

~Anonymous

“Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do, and they will surprise you with their ingenuity.”

~General George S. Patton

“Power expands when you share it with others.”

~Labella & Lact

“Nothing is particularly hard if you break it down into small jobs.”

~Henry Ford

“Most human beings have an almost infinite capacity for taking things for granted.”

~Aldous Huxley

“Dear Lord, so far today I’ve done all right. I haven’t gossiped, haven’t lost my temper, haven’t been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I’m very thankful for that. But Lord, in a few minutes, I’m going to get out of bed. And from then on I’m definitely going to need a lot more help.”

“Blessed are the flexible for they shall never get bent out of shape!”