

**JOSE MORENO RECOGNIZED WITH GUERRILLERA/O OF LA PLUMA 2011 AWARD
 RAZA PRESS AND MEDIA ASSOCIATION
 GENERAL MEETING HELD IN OXNARD, CALIFAZTLÁN**

On December 18, 2011, the Raza Press and Media Association (RPMA) held its third and last general meeting of the year. The meeting was held at the “Café On A Street” Oxnard, Califaztlán.

In our attempt to be as transparent and inclusive as possible, the RPMA publishes the minutes and outcomes of its meetings. We hope this will create an understanding of the type of association we are and enable Raza to see the sincerity of our efforts.

Our General Meetings are divided into six sections:

- (1) Welcome and Introduction. In this section members in attendance introduce themselves, the agenda is reviewed, and any items, if need be, are added.
- (2) Reports from Mesa members. Here reports/updates from members of the Mesa Directiva (board of directors) of the RPMA given. General members can ask questions or request clarifications.
- (3) Reports from General Members. General members present/provide a brief account of the present media they are doing or inform the membership of their future projects.
- (4) Update On RPMA Projects. In this part of the agenda, collective projects are reviewed or new ones are proposed for membership feed back or approval.
- (5) New Items. Here new items are discussed. This can be in the form of Mesa initiatives or issues/concerns raised or proposed by general members.
- (6) Political Education. This last section is the space where a pre-selected issue (from input of general members) related to media work or the goals of the RPMA, is discussed with the objective of improving our understanding of the media and questions of importance to La Raza.

The following is a brief summation of the discussions and outcomes from the December 2011 meeting:



Left to right: Jose Moreno and Luis Moreno



Left to right: Ernesto Bustillos, Jose Moreno, and Antonio Velasquez



Benjamin Prado



Christina Lares



Carlos Martell

I. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION. Everyone introduced themselves. Present were Marc B., Ernesto B., Natividad C., Joseph C. Christina L., Carlos M., Jose M., Luis M., Benjamin P., and Antonio V. Agenda was reviewed and approved.

II. REPORT FROM MESA MEMBERS

A. Coordinator: Ernesto has worked on the Chicano Mexicano Prison Projects (CMPP) newsletter, Association of Raza Educators (ARE) publicity committee, and recently put together a movimiento calendar (with 14 short biographies of Raza Revolutionaries) to use as a fundraiser for the work of the CMPP. He gave an update on work of the RPMA, positives and negatives, from the coordinator’s perspective. A written summation was handed out and will be posted on website at a later date. The report reiterated the importance of following up past outcomes of RPMA general meetings. These included:

1. Making recruitment of women a priority
2. Every member personally do outreach to acquaintances/contacts to encourage or ask them to join the RPMA.
3. All members must be more productive. This means taking quality time from our busy schedules and contribute more to the body of media produced by the RPMA.
4. All members must be responsible for searching or developing resources/funding (all areas/means) for the RPMA.
5. Be more creative and produce quality work. There is always room for improvement.

B. Secretary/Membership (Francisco): Compa Francisco was absent due to important out of town commitment.

C. Finances. Antonio reported that a memo went out to all members regarding membership dues, which are 20 dollars per year (dues were collected). We are expecting some funds to come in soon from donated resources. Members will be updated as soon as these resources come in.

We must be more creative and produce quality work. There is always room for improvement!

D. Website/La Pluma . Luis reported that the RPMA Website has been regularly updated with reports, news articles, podcasts, video, etc. All members are encouraged to visit the site and contribute material to post. Several books have been sold through the website within the last month. A PayPal account is set up for Internet use.

III. REPORTS FROM GENERAL MEMBERS

- Carlos: Currently writing political assessments based interpretation “mapping” (economic, political, social). Also, contributed an article on the media for publication in *Guerrillero/os del La Pluma*.
- Benjamin: Has been working on leadership workshops, covered recent international labor conference held in Tijuana (photos, podcast, video, etc.), and maintains the website for Unión del Barrio.
- Natividad: No report. Is attending a RPMA meeting for the first time.
- Christina: Working on a community-based newsletter for the Oxnard area.
- Marc: Working on publicity committee or SCIC (Southern CA Immigration Committee). This includes videos, press releases, etc.
- Antonio: In November, he facilitated/spoke at two workshops at the SDSU MEChA High School Conference on behalf of the RPMA titled “Words As Weapons”. Both workshops were well attended and productive.
- Joseph: Working with a collective doing podcasts for Radio Freedom.
- Jose: Helped organized regional Chicano Studies (NACCS) in Phoenix, Arizona, focused on struggle to save ethnic studies. Also, is working on holding a RPMA event in Washington, (Heritage University) where he is currently is a professor.

IV. UPDATE ON R.P.M.A. PROJECTS

1. International Delegation. Ernesto will continue to research a trip to Latin America with the objective of meeting and networking with media groups. Members should share information on media related events to which RPMA can send a delegation.
2. Publications. We continue to lag in the publishing of new publications. Website is ready to accept online payment for publications. Members must step it up and complete their work.

V. NEW ITEMS

1. 2011 Guerrillero/o de Pluma Award

Statement summation introducing the winner of the award:

It is an honor to recognize Compañero Jose Moreno as the recipient of the Guerrillero/o de La Pluma Award 2011.

For five years, the RPMA has recognized an outstanding and committed member who has been central to the advancing Raza Media and the RPMA. The Guerrillero/o de Pluma

Award is a humble and modest, but, we believe, an important award as it is the only recognition for those who are producing progressive and revolutionary media.

This award is not tied to capitalist corporations like Coors, Budweiser, or the Bank of America –the very forces that are responsible for our oppression. Rather, it is a truly camarada-based recognition.

We began this yearly tradition because we felt it was important to recognize those within our ranks who were doing extraordinary work. It was understood that through this award we not only recognize the individual –but also the difficult, serious, and necessary struggle, to build an association of trained media cadre whose goal is to represent the interests of the masses: the workers and the poor.

This year’s Guerrillero/o Award is given to Jose Moreno for his more than a decade of participation at all levels of the work of the RPMA. He has written articles, helped with editing and layout of La Pluma, produced podcasts, organized workshops and panels, and much more. For more than a decade Compañero Jose has consistently supported the work of the RPMA. He has demonstrated commitment and sacrifice by attending meetings and events, traveling throughout the United States (Occupied America) to complete assignments and tasks.

2. Journalism/Writing Contest. As a way of getting young people involved in Raza Media, Compa Antonio suggested a RPMA writing contest. After discussion, it was agreed that we hold this activity during the course of the year 2012. Antonio will report/update us on this at the next General Meeting.

VI. PLATICA-POLITICAL EDUCATION

A one and half our discussion took place around the question of “*The Occupy Movement and Raza Media; Where Do We Stand? –A Critical Dialogue*” The dialogue was facilitated by Antonio Velasquez. It was an excellent platica. A summation of the discussion will be included in the Winter 2011-2012 Issue of La Pluma.

