

# Raza Press and Media Association (RPMA) Holds General Meeting

## “WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE RAZA JOURNALIST/MEDIA WORKER TODAY?”

The Raza Press and Media Association (RPMA) held its regular General Meeting on April 23, 2011, in San Diego, CA. The meeting itself was held at the “El Carrito Restaurant”, located one block from Chicano Park. It was the intent of the RPMA to hold the meeting near Chicano Park in order to enable those attending the meeting to also enjoy the historic 41st Chicano Park Day celebration.

It was 41 years ago, on April 22, 1970, that hundreds of Raza from the community and organizations of that period (Brown Berets, MEChA, etc.), militantly and physically occupied a construction site and converted it into a people’s park. The racist-capitalist state government was planning to establish a highway patrol station right in the center of the barrio –but the community would have none of that and rebelled. Every year, the Chicano Park Steering Committee (CPSC) celebrates this historical victory in La Raza’s struggle for self-determination.

### COMMITMENT TO AN PRO-LIBERATION MEDIA

While the turn out for the RPMA General Meeting was small, just the fact that we continue to meet on a regular and transparent basis –demonstrates the commitment of the membership towards the creation of the pro-liberation media that our community needs. As we have explained in the past, the RPMA sees consistency in struggle and transparency (being up front with the goals and workings of the group) as something that will positively contribute to our people’s political history and



*RPMA meeting at Carrito Restaurant, Barrio Logan, San Diego, CA; April 23, 2011.*

eventual liberation.

The meeting’s agenda was divided into five parts: (1) Welcome and Reports from general members. This is the section where members give an update on their current work and what plans they have for the future. (2) Reports from the RPMA Mesa (board) members. Here, the officers of the RPMA give reports on their area of responsibilities. (3) Update on RPMA Projects. This the part where we sum-up the status of our “collective” work or projects engaged by the whole association. (4) The General Discussion session. This is where we take up a particular subject dealing with Raza self-determination and the role of the press. This section basically serves as political education and a space from which direction/guidance comes from. (5) The Outcomes. This is the last section of the meeting and where proposals, actions, and resolutions are proposed and agreed upon.

### MEETING AGENDA

#### A. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

Coordinator, Ernesto Bustillos welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda.

1. Reports from General Members present:

- Marc Baca: Working with Southern California Immigration Coalition (SCIC), with the Publicity Committee. He has produced several youtube films that have been posted on our web.

- Martin Madrigal: Has been focusing on wide-range of strategies to get groups to support the CA Dream Act, and the work of the SCIC.

- Luis Moreno: Has updated the RPMA web-site, is editor of the RPMA journal, and working on podcasts; most recent project is *Radio Lucha*, a bi-monthly podcast of Todo Poder Al Pueblo

- Antonio Velazquez: Continues working with youth in the struggle against a “Gang Injunction” being implemented in the Santa Barbara area; advising youth, and assisting in raising consciousness.

- Ernesto Bustillos: His main work

has been in the area of print; editing/writing for Chicano Mexicano Prison Project's newsletter, *Las Calles y La Torcida* and is a member of the collective that produces Unión del Barrio's newspaper, *La Verdad*. He also is working on the Association of Raza Educator's (San Diego Chapter) publicity committee.

• Pablo Aceves: He has been writing articles/translating for mass-based groups and is a regular contributor to *Guerrilleros de La Pluma*; he is currently working on article analyzing the so-called "drug war" taking place in Mexico.

## **B. REPORT FROM MESA MEMBERS**

1. Coordinator (Ernesto). See Coordinator's Report in separate document.

2. Finances (Antonio). Due to lack of a consensus, a fund raising plan for the RPMA has not been developed.

3. Website/RPMA Journal –*Guerrilleros de La Pluma* (Luis). Website is continuously updated and the materials posted have been successful in its effort to make these the main vehicles of communication for the RPMA membership.

4. Membership/Organization (Francisco). Mesa member was absent.

## **C. UPDATE ON RPMA PROJECTS**

1. International Delegation -Nicaragua (Ernesto). We are waiting for information on "International Labor Meeting" that is to take place in Managua in late July. As soon as information is concretized, details will be sent out immediately. Everyone going must pay their way.

2. Publications. We are extremely behind publicizing the RPMA books. There are presently two books pending: Chicano Studies/Raza Education (Ernesto), and Commentaries (Antonio).

## **D. DISCUSSION**

The last part of the meeting was cen-

tered on a dialogue over the question of "What is the role of the Raza Journalist/Media worker today?" The dialogue was part of our political development and means by which to keep the membership informed on this critical question. Previous to the general meeting the RPMA wrote:

"In light of the growing U.S. Imperial-Colonial wars being waged throughout the world and upon nations (Mexicanos-Raza, Native Americans, African-Americans, Pacific Islanders, etc.) within its current borders, this discussion is necessary for all who want to do something significant to change this world."

Some of the questions that were addressed included:

1. How important is the Raza Journalist/Media Worker to our communities?

2. What are some of the specific areas of work in which the Raza Journalist/Media Worker should be involved? What must we do?

3. In spite of the racist terror and oppression facing our communities-what is keeping the majority of Raza Journalists/Media Workers from uniting?

The 40-minute dialogue was informative and analytical. It provided those in attendance with ideas and guidance for the future work of the RPMA.

## **E. OUTCOMES**

The RPMA has as one of its objectives to always end meetings with resolutions that are reachable and that guide our work in between meetings. The following are outcomes developed at the meeting. It is the responsibility of the RPMA mesa directiva to ensure that the outcomes are implemented.

1. That we begin a campaign in cooperation with progressive Raza educators (Chicano/a Studies, progressive

teachers, counselors, etc.), with the aim of assisting each other through the sharing of resources. A detailed plan will be discussed at the next RPMA mesa meeting and presented to the general membership within the next 2 or 3 months.

2. That the RPMA will continue with its practice of working with mass base groups –at the same time, maintaining its progressive/revolutionary stance, uniqueness, and principles.

3. As a way of joining the "Global Community" of progressive activism, that we make a concerted call for media workers, specially youth, to post their material (whatever form of media) on our website. This will help in building future Raza media workers and help "promote" the work of new writers, filmmakers, artists, etc.

4. We must continue to strive to advance our work in a way that it advances our level of credibility, which must include networking/joining with established international media groups.

5. That we identify-locate spaces of struggle and do everything we can to implant ourselves in these spaces (colleges, community groups, social media outlets, etc.).

6. In regard to fundraising, that we focus on "a speaking tour" where our members would provide workshops and seminars in return for honorariums to fund the work of the RPMA.

## **CONCLUSION**

The next General Meeting of the RPMA is scheduled for the month of August 2011. The Mesa Directiva is committed to ensuring that the outcomes of this meeting are materialized. We welcome recommendations and concrete criticism from honest and active forces within our movement.

**VENCEREMOS!**

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