

Raza Press and Media Association Holds Its General Meeting In Seattle, WA.

A MEDIA ON THE SIDE OF THE WORKERS, POOR, AND ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE

INTRODUCTION

The Raza Press and Media Association (RPMA) held its general membership meeting on April 10, 2010 during the National Association of Chicano/a Studies Conference held in Seattle, WA. The meeting was held during lunch (12 to 2 PM), at a nearby restaurant, as not to conflict with the NACCS Conference schedule and enabling those who might wish to join us from missing any of the conference proceedings.

Holding the conference in Seattle was a means by which the RPMA attempts to facilitate the participation Raza throughout occupied America (United States). It was a proposal that was agreed upon at the last RPMA meeting held on Feb. 6, 2010, in Oxnard, CA. It reads, "We must hold our meetings during times of large gatherings and movement events (conferences, marches, etc.). This will give us access to forces already gathered at a particular location. It will also permit us to do "our journalist work" after the meeting, by "covering" the event taking place (film, take photos, write/report, etc.)" [See section on *Formulation of Meeting Agreements and Resolutions*, posted on our web page].

The RPMA, or over a decade now (!), has sent delegations to the NACCS conferences and has presented at its workshops and panels. This year, RPMA members Francisco Romero and Ernesto Bustillos presented at a panel titled: THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA: KEEPING GENTRIFICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL GENOCIDE A SECRET.

As much as we have been critical of some Chicano Studies professors and programs because of their lack of activism, we still uphold the importance of this science to our people's struggle for justice and self-determination –thus explaining our continuing presence and participation in NACCS.

While the turn out for the RPMA general meeting was extremely small, only five people participated, we are not discouraged and we will continue with our efforts until the revolutionary media our people need is developed. We are referring to a media that is on the side of the workers, the poor, barrio gente, prisoners, and all oppressed people.

The following is a summation of the RPMA.

I. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

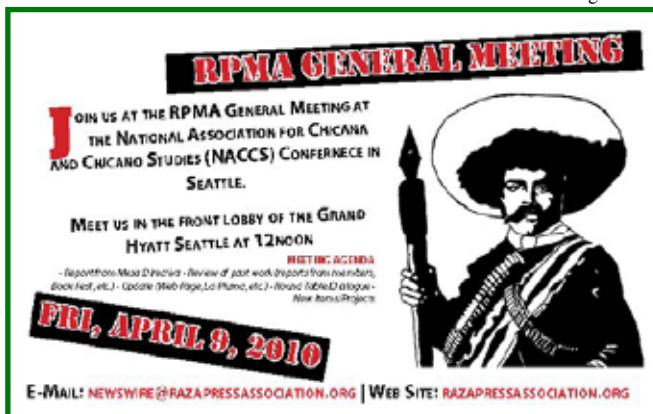
- Francisco Romero. Compañero Francisco reported that his article on *Low Intensity Warfare on Raza* is now found in the most recent *Global Studies Journal*. It is available in both hard copy and on the Net. He also helped organized a recent event titled "Cine Revolucionario", and has been working on alternative radio program called "Cultural Productions".
- Luis Moreno. Compañero Luis laid-out the latest issue of *Guerrillera/os de la Pluma*, and designed the cover for three publications: *Revolutionary Reflections*, *Chicano Journalism*, and *2009 Compilation of RPMA Journal/Articles*. He has also worked with the Xicano Development Center in the creation of flyers and podcasts. Compa Luis has also regularly maintained the RPMA web page.
- Jose Moreno. Compañero Jose has been working with the Xicano Development Center. His article on Chicano Studies was featured in the latest issue of *Guerrillera/os de la Pluma*. Compa Jose is also editing the next issue of *La Pluma*, which

will focus on the theme of "War And Terror, And The Empire".

- Ernesto Bustillos. Compañero Ernesto has written articles and edited some of the work of the Save Our Barrios Coalition (SOBC), Association of Raza Educators (ARE), and Chicano Mexicano Prison Project (CMPP). He is also part of La Verdad Publications, the propaganda commission of Unión del Barrio.

II. REPORT FROM THE COORDINATOR AND ROUND TABLE

Compa Ernesto Bustillos, the current coordinator of the RPMA, gave an overview on how he saw the most recent activities of the RPMA. It was a brief criticism/self-criticism that raised both the positives and negatives of the current status of the RPMA. A written report will be sent to members and will posted on line.



III. OLD ITEMS

- A. Barrio Book Fest: THE BARREL OF THE PEN: BOOKS AS WEAPONS OF STRUGGLE. The book fest, which took place on March 6, in Los Angeles, was by accounts, excellent. Moving and informative presentations were delivered by the keynote speakers and panelists (please see article on RPMA web page). Attendance was excellent and there was standing room only throughout the event. It was suggested that panel would have been more effective if it would have been divided into two sections; this would have given the panelists more time for elaboration of their work (Please read article on Book Fest posted on our web).
- B. Publications. During the last five months the RPMA was able to produce two books and a professional glossy-cover binded compilation of our 2009 journals. Compa Antonio Velazquez is in the process of publishing a trilogy of his commentaries.
- C. RPMA Journal: *Guerillera/os de La Pluma*. The Summer Issue 2010 will be edited by Jose Moreno and will focus on the theme of War and The Empire. All members are encouraged to, in whatever way possible, contribute to all issues of *La Pluma*.
- C. Web Page Update: The web page is administered by Luis Moreno and updated on regular basis. It is continues to be one of the most "current" web pages on the Internet and is of excellent quality. Both progressive and revolutionary Raza media is posted on our web and a large selection of articles have been archived.

IV. NEW ITEMS/CONFERENCES

A. Association of Raza Educators (A.R.E.) Conference will be held in San Diego on May 15, 2010. Francisco and Antonio will be presenting.

B. National Association of Global Studies will hold its conference at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, under the theme of "GLOBAL CRISES AND BEYOND" on May 7-9, 2010. The RPMA will submit a proposal for a workshop.

V. MEETING AGREEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

After the coordinator's and membership reports, several round table discussions took place as a way of providing feedback and suggestions. The roundtable enriched the analysis and recommendations of the reports, and outlined some concrete projects for the future. The following proposals/recommendations were made and accepted. The coordinator will ensure that they are carried out and will report at our next general meeting.

1. Production of Work (books, etc.). We need to be more disciplined in meeting production deadlines –the process has to be followed (Criticism raised to all members).

2. Partnership/Funding. We need to find publishers that can assist us in the production of our projects. Also, more focus should be placed on securing funding for our work. (Jose will look into this)

3. Training. We need to pass on our experience and skills to others within the organization so that we don't depend on one or two individuals. Workshops/working meetings must be held to address this particular issue. (Luis will follow-up)

4. RPMA Documentation. We need to make sure all work of RPMA is documented. Otherwise we will be "written out of history". (Ernesto will follow-up)

5. Focus Of Work. Our work should include more material/projects on "Cultural/Artist Expressions". (All members will work on this)

6. New Publications: (a) Chicano Studies. The book will have articles/chapters focusing on three areas: (1) Ideology/Philosophy, a (2) Activism/Struggle, and (3) Pedagogy [Compas Jose and Luis will take on this task]. And (b) book on "Barrio Organizing 101. [Compa Francisco will take on this task].

7. Book Readings. We will organize a series of "Book Readings" to promote the new books published by the RPMA. Locations will be Oxnard, Los Angeles, and San Diego. (Francisco will follow-up)

8. Podcasts/Radio Programming. Continue with work on PodCasts. Compas Jose and Luis have created a "recording estudio" and will work more in this area of media. Francisco, along with other members in the Oxnard area, will continue with radio-style podcasting.

9. Internationalist Work. In respond to the coordinator's report, it was decided do more work with other liberation struggles and the progressives/revolutionary media of other nationalities and movements.

10. Next General Meeting. We will attempt to hold our next general RPMA in El Paso, Tejas, in early June (Specifics will be forth coming). After the meeting, we can hold a small public forum on the Raza media. [Ernesto will follow-up]

Meeting Adjourned at 2 PM.