

A JOURNALISM COMMITTED TO THE LIBERATION OF THE RAZA-MEXICAN COMMUNITY

SUMMATION/REPORT FROM LAST RPMA GENERAL MEETING

INTRODUCTION

On Saturday, February 6, 2010, the Raza Press And Media Association (RPMA) held its first General Meeting of the year. The meeting was held at the "Centro Mujer Organizing Center", located on Saviers Road in Oxnard, Califaztlán. The RPMA holds quarterly general meetings and in between the general meetings, the mesa (or board) meets to ensure the work decided upon by the membership is carried. This process has allowed the RPMA to be a truly collective and democratic organization; something always talked about, but rarely practiced within what people call "the movimiento".

In spite of a small attendance, it was an excellent meeting as a lot of work transpired. The meeting was focused, everyone was aware of what was on the agenda, and members came prepared to contribute. That fact that members sacrificed a Saturday and a tremendous rainstorm in order to be present at the meeting, represented that it was truly a gathering of journalists committed to the liberation of Mexicano/Raza communities.

The RPMA Meeting consisted of five parts or items: (I) Reports from members (II) Report from the coordinator and roundtable response from general members, (III) Old Items, (IV) New Items/Conferences, and (V) Meeting Agreements/or Resolutions.

After the meeting, the RPMA organized a film showing and discussion of the movie "The 880 Mile Wall". The film showing was held in "La Colonia", the oldest barrio in Oxnard (CA), about 45 people were in attendance. It was held at the home of RPMA board member, Francisco Romero, who also was one of the key organizers of the event. The objectives of the film showing were to "space in the community" for dialogue, discussion, and debate, on the question of Raza crossing the colonialist imposed border. It was also organized to introduce the RPMA to activists

and community members of the Oxnard area. Speaking at the event were Celina Benitez (Los Angeles Chapter Organizer with the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador-CISPES), Aracelia Alvarez (representing Comité de Mujeres Patricia Marin -Los Angeles), Ron Gochez (teacher, member of Unión del Barrio, and representative of the Southern California Immigration Coalition -Los Angeles), and Tanya Cole (Witness For Peace Southwest Regional Organizer).

I. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

- Benjamin Prado: The compa's most recent work was the production of *La Verdad*, newspaper of Unión del Barrio (UdB). He also assisted in the design of a special bulletin which was centered on an article on the recent "Marcha" against racism of the sheriff of Phoenix, Arizona, Joe Arpaio, alias "The Pig". It was written from the perspective of the UdB delegation that attended the massive and historic march, in which over 10,000 people participated.

- Francisco Romero: Compa Francisco is working on a book on a collection of socio-political revolutionary reflections and analyses; the goal is to have it ready by the Raza/Barrio Bookfest (March 6, 2010). He also wrote and posted a book review on



Ernesto Bustillos (coordinator), Benjamin Prado (*La Verdad* newspaper), and Francisco Romero (membership/organization). Oxnard, CA. 2/6/10

the RPMA web page. Compa Francisco has been helping with translating articles for the A.R.E. newsletter *Regeneración*, and recently had article published in the Journal of the Global Studies Association.

- Antonio Velasquez: Compa Antonio has been laying-out a book of his commen-

taries from *Clavo En El Corazon* and it's ready to be sent to printer. He continues to work around various self-reliance projects, with barrio youth in the Santa Barbara area.

- Ernesto Bustillos: He has edited and written articles for *Las Calles y La Torcida*, the newsletter of the Chicano Mexican Prison Project (CMPP). Ernesto wrote article on the struggle against "gentrification" that is being led by the Save Our Barrios Coalition (SOBC) in San Diego, and will be working on a "general survey" on Barrio Logan (history, politics, economics, demographics, and current struggles); Barrio Logan is one of the oldest Mexican communities in Occupied America (or what some people call the United States).

- Oscar Michel: Oscar is currently working on the digital archive of political posters for OSPAAAL (Organization for Solidarity of Asia, Africa, and Latin America). Compa Oscar is also slated to shoot future public events for the Los Angeles Association of Raza Educators (A.R.E.). He will be shooting photos at the RPMA Book Fest and is preparing photos to contribute to next issue of *La Pluma*.

- Luis Moreno: Continues to work updating and maintaining the RPMA web site. Compa Luis has developed several RPMA publications and is editing the new issue of *Guerrilleros/as de La Pluma*, to be published in time for the Raza/Barrio Book Fest.

- Jose Moreno: Compa Jose is taking a leadership role in the organizing of a series of events for "Chicano History Month" to be held at around Lansing (Michigan) community, during the days of Feb. 8 to Feb. 13, 2010. Also, in the next couple of months he will take on task of editing the

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Summer Issue of *La Pluma* whose theme will be “War and the Empire” (war against drugs, terrorism, and commemoration of August 29th events, etc.)

II. REPORT FROM THE COORDINATOR AND ROUND TABLE

Compa Ernesto Bustillos, the current coordinator of the RPMA submitted a written report, which he elaborated upon orally. The report included a summation of the work that the RPMA has done recently, highlighting its accomplishments. He also raised some concerns and problems that revealed what he saw as weaknesses of the RPMA. Ernesto also laid-out a heavy critique of those who call themselves “media workers” but refuse to work in a collective fashion, exposing their deep petty-bourgeois tendencies. The report concluded with a section on “Solutions/Recommendations” which zeroed on how we can collectively resolve the problems facing the RPMA and the movement itself.

After the coordinator’s report, several round table discussions took place as a way of providing feedback and suggestions to the report of the coordinator. The roundtable enriched the analysis and recommendations to what the coordinator had proposed in the report.

III. OLD ITEMS

A. Barrio Book Fest: THE BARREL OF THE PEN: BOOKS AS WEAPONS OF STRUGGLE (update). The program of the Book Fest was finalized. It will be posted by the end of the week.

B. RPMA Journal: *Guerillero/as de La Pluma*. Articles for the Spring Issue are due Feb. 15, 2010. The goal is to have it ready for the book festival. The Summer Issue will be edited by Jose Moreno and will focus on the theme of War and The Empire.

C. Web Page update: The web page is administered by Luis Moreno and updated on regular basis. It is one of the most

“current” web pages on the Internet. It 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) National Association of Chicano/a Studies (NACCS) will take place during the week of April 8 to 10, 2010, in Seattle,



Antonio Velasquez (Sec/Treasurer)

WA. Compas Ernesto and Francisco will present. Also attending will be Luis Moreno and Jose Moreno. It was recommended that our next general membership meeting be held in Seattle during the NACCS conference, on Friday, April 9.

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

(C) 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; any one wishing to be considered for the workshop, please contact Ernesto, ASAP.

(D) National Chicano Moratorium Committee (NCMC)- Aug. 29th 40th Commemoration. An organizing committee made up of the NCMC, La Raza Unida Party, Unión del Barrio, Movimiento Liberación Nacional, Brown Berets de East Los Angeles, MEChA Southern CA. Region, and other groups will be meeting regularly to organize a massive commemoration. RPMA will be supporting this event.

(E) Elections of New RPMA Mesa.

- Coordinator: Ernesto
- Membership/Organization: Francisco
- Secretary/Treasurer: Antonio
- Editor of *Guerillero/as de La Pluma*:

Luis

V. FORMULATION OF MEETING AGREEMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS

1. We must hold our meetings during times that large gatherings and movement events (conferences, marches, etc.) take place. This will give us access to forces already gathered at a particular location and permit us to do “our journalist work” after the meeting by covering the events taking place (film, photography, write/report, etc.)

2. That we be selective in our outreach. This means doing outreach to specific individuals/or by personal invitation as means of securing contributions to *La Pluma* and to attend our events (general meetings, etc.), at the same time that we continue with our open or public calls and announcements.

3. Our events must be more attractive. As we decided at our last meeting, we must organize after-meeting social gatherings and other activities.

4. We agreed to organize a “Raza Media delegation” to Latin America where we can both learn from the experiences of other struggles and share information as to the situation in Aztlán.

5. That we hold a general meeting, along with a special event (forum, etc.) in El Paso in late September of 2010.

6. It was agreed, that RPMA members should be ready, at a “24 hour notice” to travel if the opportunity arises. This means that we have a presentation ready, funds, etc.

7. The next General Meeting of the RPMA will be held in Seattle on Friday, April 9, 2010, during the NACCS conference. Agenda and details will be sent at least one week prior to the meeting date. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting must contact the RPMA.

Meeting Adjourned. 3 PM.

Note: The Coordinator’s Report by Ernesto Bustillos will be published as a separate document.