

The Time To Fight Back Is Now:

January 31, 2009

"GIVING VOICE AND POWER TO OUR COMMUNITY"

RPMA HAS A HISTORY OF 18 YEARS OF STRUGGLE

On January 24, 2009, the Raza Press and Media Association (RPMA) held its annual summit in San Diego, Califaztlán. While it was only a small group of journalists, writers, photo/film journalists, etc. who attended, everyone recognized the historical significance of the 19-year history of the association. The general call to



Ernesto Bustillos and Cecilia Ubilla

attend the summit introduced the RPMA as:

"Since its founding, the RPMA has been the most active, consistent, and longest lasting progressive Raza media organization in our people's struggle for justice, peace, and self-determination. Currently the RPMA is the only progressive Raza media association active within the



Adam Osorio, Martin Terrones, and Aremi Lopez

borders of the United States. For more than 18 years, the RPMA has struggled to:

- A. Provide critical and accurate information to the Raza communities
- B. Create a space and network for Raza journalists/media workers

C. Assist in the creation of progressive and revolutionary media throughout Occupied America.

The RPMA understands that only united and organized can we move forward towards ending all forms of oppression. If you are into any type of media expression (video, art, press, etc.) and want to use your skills to advance the struggle for Raza Liberation, attend the meeting and join the RPMA." (see RPMA summit program).

THE GOALS OF THE SUMMIT

As a means of building a progressive and revolutionary media and improve the work of the RPMA, the summit worked to meet the following goals:

1. Discuss the situation/conditions in which the RPMA currently finds itself, including its strengths and weaknesses.
2. Critically review of RPMA activities during the year of 2008.
3. Provide opportunities for members of the RPMA to report on their work during 2008 and on their upcoming projects or activities.
4. Review our constitution and elect new officers (mesa directiva).
5. Discuss where we would like to see RPMA in the future. What directions do we want it to go?
6. Consolidate the RPMA as a network of progressive and revolutionary Raza media workers, and how this will help us meet the RPMA goals.
7. Create some concrete/realistic objectives that all members can collectively work on during 2009.

SUMMIT AGENDA

The summit agenda was divided into three parts:

A. Welcome and Introduction

Everyone present introduced themselves and briefly explained the work they were doing around the question of the press/media. Every agreed as how the media is being used to stereotype and attack our community, and felt that a people's media (a media controlled by the community) was a human right, and not some kind of privilege. Also,

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the RPMA coordinator, Ernesto Bustillos, gave a detailed summation of the work of the RPMA during the year 2008, providing a critique of the current organizational status of RPMA, and what the future holds for the association (to be published at a later date). This part of the summit agenda was facilitated by Aremi Lopez, the RPMA’s secretary.

B. Organization and Structure of RPMA and Elections



Benjamin Prado

In this section of the agenda, the RPMA’s constitution was reviewed and elections of new officers (coordinator, secretary, membership/organization, and finance) took place. The constitution was accepted (attached to this document) and the following were elected to the position of Mesa Directiva of the RPMA: Ernesto Bustillos (coordinator), Aremi Lopez (secretary), and Francisco Romero (organization and membership). Ernesto Bustillos facilitated this part of the summit agenda.

C. Development of “Plan of Action for 2009”

This part of the agenda dealt with what kind of activities and projects should be taken on by the RPMA. A round table discussion took place on a RPMA plan of action for 2009. The following were the key projects and tasks that RPMA will take on during the course of 2009:

1. We will continue organizing our yearly Book Fest (to be organized in Oct/Nov.). This work will be headed by Francisco Romero and Aremi Lopez.
2. A series of media workshops will be organized in conjunction with the work that *La Verdad* newspaper collective is currently doing. This area of work will be facilitated by Ben Prado.
3. A book of art and commentaries titled *Art and Revolution* will put together connecting art to the struggle.

The goal is to have it ready by the end of 2009. Francisco will take on this task.

4. A “recommitment” was made to complete past projects (carry over from 2008). This included the book on Journalism (Ernesto), everyone’s ongoing contributions to our quarterly on-line publication of *Guerillero/as de La Pluma*, and ensure a regularly updated web page with video/photo journalism and articles/reports (Luis Moreno).

5. General meetings of the RPMA were tentatively set for April 18, 2009 (San Diego), August 22, 2009 (location TBA), and November 21, 2009 (location TBA). The mesa directiva will meet in between general meetings to follow up on summit plan of action and to

prepare agendas for general meetings as a way of ensuring that meetings are structured, run smoothly, and productive. This part of the summit was facilitated by Francisco Romero.



Cassandra Orozco, Juan Orozco, and Francisco Romero



Carlos Pelayo, Ernesto Bustillos, and Cecilia Ubilla

While the number of participants was extremely small, everyone understood the importance of continuing the mission of the RPMA, which is to create a viable people’s media, as this is one of the prerequisites for the creation of a movement that will truly liberate Raza and all oppressed people of the world. **VENCEREMOS!**

RAZA PRESS AND MEDIA ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

(Accepted January 24, 2008)

Objectives:

- 1) Create A Movement of Progressive and Revolutionary Media Workers
- 2) To Establish A Raza News Wire Service.
- 3) Hold On-Going Workshops And Conferences To Advance Raza Press, Media, And Popular Expression.
- 4) Establish An Editorial Board To Oversee Joint Publications.
- 5) Pool Existing Resources To Assist Publications And To Establish New Ones.
- 5) Establishment of a Collection Of Periodicals, Past, And Current.

Principles Of Unity:

- 1) Must Be Raza Publications/Media Workers Who Are Independent Of Government Agencies.
- 2) Members Must Support Raza Self-Determination.
- 3) Must Adhere To Democratically Reached Decisions.
- 4) Must Support General Objectives Of The Association.
- 5) Must Support The Struggles Of Other Indigenous People, Latino Americanos (Raza), and All Oppressed People Within And Outside The U.S.

Members Criteria/Members in good standing:

- 1) Membership Is Limited To Raza Involved In Media, Press And Popular Expression.
- 2) Members Must Work/Link-Up With Existing Publications In Their Areas.
- 3) Representation/Input To The RPMA Will Be Through Official Representatives Of Members Publications.
- 4) To Be A Member In Good Standing, Member Publications Must Publish/Produce Some Form of Media (newspaper, radio program, video, etc.) A Minimum Of Four Times Per Year.
- 5) Members Will Contribute Yearly Dues Of \$60 To Cover The Expense Of La Pluma And Other Projects.
- 6) Members Must Contribute To The Publication Of La Pluma and Information for Our Web Page.
- 7) Attends at least one RPMA meeting, workshop, summit, conferences, etc. per year.

Structure (new Mesa meets and decides upon tasks and duties of each officer):

1) Mesa Directiva/Editorial Board Will Consist Of Coordinator, Secretary, Membership/Organization, and Finance.

2) Mesa Will Serve As Coordinating Body To Insure Communication And Completion Of Tasks.

3) Mesa Will Also Serve As Editorial Board For All RPMA Publications.

4) Standing Committees Will Be Established As Needed.

5) Mesa Directiva Will Organize A Yearly Summit Or Conference.

B. Membership Privileges/benefits

1. Admission To All RPMA Events (conferences, summits, etc.)

2. Membership Card and RPMA Press Card .

3. RPMA Reference (for employment, grant purposes etc.).

4. Technical Assistance In Media Production.

5. Voice In The Direction of the RPMA.

6. Knowing That You Are Fighting for Justice, Peace, and Liberation

