



Movimiento por una Educación Popular Alternativa

MEPA Activity Report 2018 - 2019

The Movement for an Alternative Popular Education, MEPA, shares with the FIMEM community the activities that we have carried out throughout these two years. The movement is currently made up of 40 members from the various entities of the country that work in public and private institutions, and in community social projects.

2018 – 2019

Fight in defense of public, free, secular and democratic education

From 2018 to date, a transitional government has been maintained that has been making decisions in the educational field, favorable and not favorable compared to the last presidential term. Throughout these two years, various members of the Movement have participated in various pronouncements, conversations, conferences, among other activities, in support of the struggle that the National Coordinator of Education Workers in Mexico maintains to modify the 3rd constitutional and the General Education Law, in favor of a free, secular and democratic public education in our country, as well as for decent labor rights for teachers. On the other hand, within this magisterial fight, a clear position is maintained against neoliberal policies that affect education and open the door to private institutions that continue to affect the public educational sphere.

Preparation of the points to be analyzed at the General Assembly in Sweden 2018

and our participation

MEPA had meetings prior to our participation in RIDEF in Ljungskile, Sweden, 2018, in which we analyzed the topics to be reviewed that were reviewed in RIDEF. 17 colleagues from the Movement participated in RIDEF in which we gave some workshops.

2019

REMFA. Cuernavaca, Mexico- 2019

During the year 2019, work was done by the organization of the RED AMERICA Educators Meeting (REMFA), this meeting was finally held in July in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico. The possibility of participating in a virtual way was opened since, due to economic reasons, it was not possible to count on the presence of some members from Latin America. The work carried out was coordinated between the MEMM and the MEPA, the two Mexican movements, for this it was necessary to use technology to organize ourselves online, by email and in person.



ORGANIZATION

Ordinary assembly of the beginning of the year 2019

On February 2, 2019, the MEPA Ordinary Assembly and the REMFA organization meeting were convened, the order of the day covered several points, among which, one of the most important was coordination with respect to the REMFA Reunion. Commissions were reported, same in which each member decided to assume the task of coordination or participation, in some cases there were already coordinators, only collaborators were required. At the conclusion of the Assembly, the organizational progress of quotas and logistics were made with the municipality where the Reunion would take place, to which, the commission in charge of its effort was recognized as excellent conditions were achieved for said event.

Virtual Assembly for the organization of REMFA

In April, a virtual meeting was held with the Organizing Committee of REMFA to fine-tune the details of the event, there were not enough registrations for the Reunion for that date, so the closing of registrations was postponed on several occasions, that was when We determined that despite the conditions, the economic situation of our countries would not allow us to have the face-to-face assistance of many members of the movements, so it was determined in this assembly that virtual spaces for participation would be opened and part of the event would be transmitted online so that more people could participate.

Another reason why several members of the Red América could not attend was due to the fact that the South American school calendars did not coincide with those of Mexico, implying complications in the permits to be absent from their schools, many of which were not they got.

In this meeting there were also advances in workshops, talks, and other activities, the Board of Directors assumed organizational tasks regarding the financing of the event.

Preparation of REMFA Cuernavaca - Morelos. 2019

For the month of June we had an important advance in the organization of the event, however, the economic difficulties and the mismatched school calendars exacerbated the absence of the South American colleagues. The REMFA Organizing Committee in Mexico made the decision to hold the event despite the low participation of foreign colleagues: 15 people, most of them Brazilians. The rest of the members of the Mexican movements expressed the economic complications of moving some teachers from various parts of the country to the host city, due to a crisis stemming from neoliberal policies added to a recent change of government. Days before the event, we were still concluding school activities in Mexico.



EVENT

The REMFA Meeting was developed as follows:

- 117 colleagues participated: 15 people from Brazil, Peru, Italy and Spain; and 102 people from various entities in Mexico.
- 3 international assemblies, in which we enjoyed the virtual presence of Uruguay, Chile and Argentina, colleagues who due to financial reasons and school calendars, were unable to attend the event in person.
- 2 days called "Open House Days" in which educational evidence by students was exposed that allowed sharing alternative educational experiences among teachers.
- 17 short afternoon workshops and two talks with Chela Tapia who shared her experience with Freinet pedagogy in Mexico.
- 4 conversations, spaces in which common problems were shared in the field of educational practices both in Basic Education and in Teacher Training Schools in Mexico.
- Visit to 3 schools in the region where they shared their educational practices.
- The meeting was also enriched by a cooperative dinner, a day of excursion, artistic events, exhibitions and night life.
- A declaration was written stating the position of the Network movements against neoliberal dominance in our towns that affect public education.





SHARED REFLECTION OF THE MEPA AFTER RIDEF

Challenge for a new direction

Latin American movements are aware of the enormous economic limitations we have to participate in the RIDEFs, since the effort that most of the members of our movements requires to cover the cost of the trip and of our participations is great, as are many members of the federation. However, focusing on our Latin American reality, this REMFA meeting completely revealed that the gaps between the various sectors of our societies are not only economic but also political and social, differences that separate us, that polarize us; differences promoted by the policies of US dominance in our Latin America, which with their privatization policies are enveloping us in a social and ideological poverty that only overflows in a sharp fall in the critical and democratic thinking of students, teachers and citizens.

On the other hand, we perceive that the FIMEM still has a Eurocentric vision. As a Latin American Network, we need to raise our voices so that the rest of the international movements know our social, political, economic and cultural contexts, as well as our struggles for a public, democratic and libertarian education, in order to echo and unite efforts Collectives.

The meeting left us satisfied, but also left us hungry for work and united struggle. Union that we need to project as a collective and Latin American effort before the FIMEM, that allows us to shout out our denunciations, demanding that the world turn to see us to realize that we are being crushed by the imposition of the neoliberal and globalizing model, a situation that is leading us to forgetting our own contexts and educational needs that reflect part of our Latin American identities. We need to avoid being ideologically conquered again by silencing our Latin voice.

Attentively, on the 16th day of the month of June 2020
The Board of Directors:

President. Juan Carlos Lira Chávez. Vice-president: Luis Ricardo Ramos Hernández,
Secretary: María del Rayo García Hernández. Treasurer: María Cóyotl Cóyotl.

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