June 5, 2012

Mem Com Meeting

Present: Jo Ellen, Hanaa Rifaaey (AINN), Andrew Stelzer (Making Contact)

Excused: Liz di Novella (Progressive), Shay Totten (Chelsea Green), Brian Stewart (RHRC)

Absent: Jamia Wilson (WMC)

**1. Evaluate Two Member Applicants, News Taco and Public Eye**

News Taco—great addition to the diversity of TMC with its outreach to Latinos; mix of original and reprinted reporting; PNS (which is source for a lot of reprinted content) supports their application; budget is very very small so they would have to come in as Associate Members.

Public Eye—well-known and respected investigative shop producing original content for their own publication as well as partnering with others; strong progressive voice but considered accurate—adhere to journalistic standards; excellent resource for TMC members. Would come in as Full Members.

The feeling during the meeting was to approve these members, but because we did not have a quorum, we would like to take an email vote.

**2. New Mem Com members needed**

The Mem Com has lost two members recently, with Richard Boriskin leaving the Prospect and Jeremy Gantz leaving In These Times. In addition, Jamia has missed the last four meetings in a row. Shay Totten did join, but we are still down about 2 members.

Jo Ellen will try to recruit some members on her Netroots/NYC trip. Please also feel empowered to recruit new members.

**3. Strategic Question**

The CC has been preoccupied for the last six months with TMC finances, and so has not taken up a very important strategic question, which is how big we envision our membership becoming, and what range of members we ultimately want to have.

TMC is poised at the brink of what could be wide-ranging growth—we’ve had expressions of interest from hyperlocal sites, from single-topic sites, from investigative sites. We have brought on a few of each of these in the past two years, esp through our Associate program. It’s now time to sit back and evaluate who we want to be.

I suggest the MemCom take up this strategic question, and present a brief report suggesting a direction to the CC. Hanaa and Andrew agreed and would like to set a meeting for mid-to late July for just that purpose.