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Local National Women's Political Caucus Chapter Announces First Annual "RA RA Awards"

The National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) is an organization devoted to making sure women have a voice in the political process and supports the efforts of women who make positive changes in the world. In that tradition, the Ventura County chapter of the NWPC has established the "RA RA" Awards to annually honor women in our community who have made a difference. This year's award will go to Lupe Anguiano, one of the founding mothers of the national NWPC.

Anguiano, a Santa Barbara resident, exemplifies the idea that the efforts of one person can effect profound change. Nationally, Anguiano is best known for her many years of work advocating for changes in welfare policy. In 1973, disturbed by the hopelessness of single mothers trapped in poverty, Anguiano founded the National Women's Employment and Education Model Program (NWEE) that provided skills training as well as child care, transportation and other support services needed to help women in poverty find full-time employment. NWEE became a nationally recognized program which was implemented in seven states and helped more than 5,000 women find jobs.

The dynamic leader also became involved with the women's liberation movement in the '60s and '70s alongside leaders Gloria Steinem and Bella Abzug. As a nun, Anguiano helped to bring Catholic support to the Equal Rights Amendment. In 1977, she was elected as a delegate to the "First National Women's Conference."

Currently, Anguiano is a part of Stewards of the Earth, a growing movement of religious leaders working to protect the environment.

The RA RA Awards are named in honor of Ventura County caucus founding mother Roma Armbrust.

Anguiano will be honored at an Aug. 17 event from 1-4 p.m. at the home of Manny and Irma Lopez, 1911 Cascades Ct. in Oxnard. The event will feature a gourmet fiesta menu and live musical entertainment. Tickets are \$75. Checks should be made payable to NWPC-VC and sent to P.O. Box 7362 Ventura CA 93006. For more information call (805) 639-3886 or email vcnwpc@gmail.com. On the web: <http://sites.google.com/site/vcnwpc>.

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