

**(Commemorative Plaque)**

**On this site on September 30, 1962, a group of mostly immigrant farm workers met to hold the inaugural convention of the National Farm Worker Association.**

.....

**Historical Significance  
of the  
Edison Social Club  
and the founding of the  
National Farm Worker  
Association  
September 30, 1962**

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**Dr. Paul A. Garcia  
Eddie Varela, President,  
El Concilio de Fresno**

# Edison Social Club: Evidence to support the existence of the facility

Edison Social Club  
1405 E. California  
Fresno, CA



Image source: Fresno County Library

# Edison Social Club: Evidence to support the existence of the facility.

Realtor's Plot Map:  
Parcel location of  
Edison Social Club



Image source: Fresno County  
Library.

# Current use of the site located at 1405 E. California Ave.

Residential home.

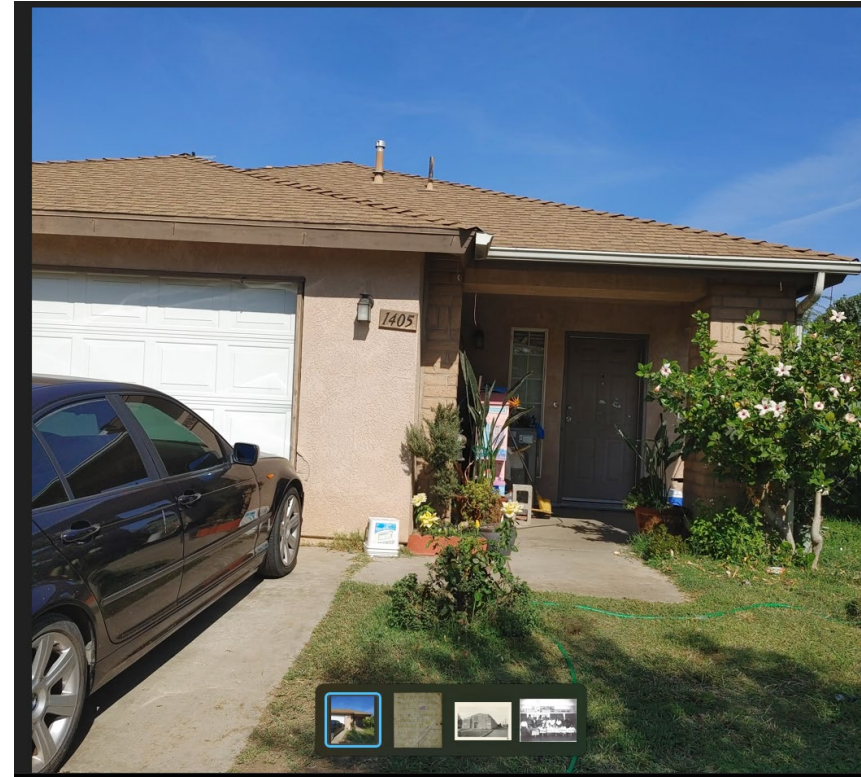


Image source: Dr. Paul Garcia



# The National Farm Worker Association (NFWA)

Purpose of the National Farm Worker Association.

- Empower migrant farmworkers
- Improve their wages
- Improve working conditions
- Promote nonviolence, and
- Educate members on political and social issues.

Button Image source: Eliseo Medina

# Evidence to support NFWA organizational meeting held at the Edison Social Hall.

NFWA newsletter announcing meeting and purpose.

FARM WORKERS ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 894, DELANO, CALIFORNIA

N E W S L E T T E R

DEAR FRIEND:

September 30, 1962 (Sunday) has been selected as the date for the very important Farm Workers Conference which will be held in Fresno beginning at 9 in the morning. This conference will be held at the EDISON SOCIAL CLUB located at 1405 California Ave. Corner of "A" Street. The phone at the hall is AD 7-9937. If you can't find the place call the above number on the day of the meeting and someone will give you directions how to get there.

ALL OF THE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. WE'LL BE EXPECTING YOU.

PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE

The purpose of this conference is to call together those Farm Workers who have been active on the census throughout the San Joaquin Valley so that they may determine the future course of the movement and make their decisions on the following: 1.- Establish by majority vote a minimum wage for Farm Workers. 2.- Decide on the future of the Farm Workers Association. 3.- Find out from you if the Association should be formalize. 4.- Elect an Executive board to guide the work of the Association. 5.- Decide on which programs would bring the most benefit to the Farm Workers and their families. 6.- Draft By-Laws to guide the work of the Association. Also, all suggestions and recommendation made by the workers will become part of the business of this conference.

DELEGATES

Each committee in every town where there workers organized will have two delegates with one vote per delegate. The only ones who can attend the meeting will those delegates elected by their committees in their home towns. If others should come who are not part of these committees they will not be allowed to enter. I will visit each committee to help explain more about the conference and also to hold the elections for delegates from your committee. Your committee will make the finaly determination as to who can attend the meeting.

IS THIS CONFERENCE FOR MEN ONLY?

NO, this conference is for all of the workers and their families. For example if you are a delegate then your family is welcomed at this meeting. If you belong to the committee and want to attend the meeting your family is also welcomed.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS CONFERENCE

This will be the very first conference of its type where the Farm Worker will come together to decide on a minimum wage, to establish a program and an association which will work for his own interest.

WHAT IS THIS MOVEMENT ALL ABOUT

As has been explained to you at those meetings in your town, this movement is a drive by the workers themselves to get things in order and to seek solutionsto their problems. It is simply a movement of the Farm Worker to end all of the injustice committed against him. It is a movement made up of those workers who are dedicated to bring an end to the many wrongs which are committed against the Farm Worker. Finally this movement is made up of those workers who are strong men and Women who understand that only through their own association will they, as workers, find a solution to the problem.

WE MUST MAKE A SACRIFICE TO ATTEND THE FRESNO CONFERENCE

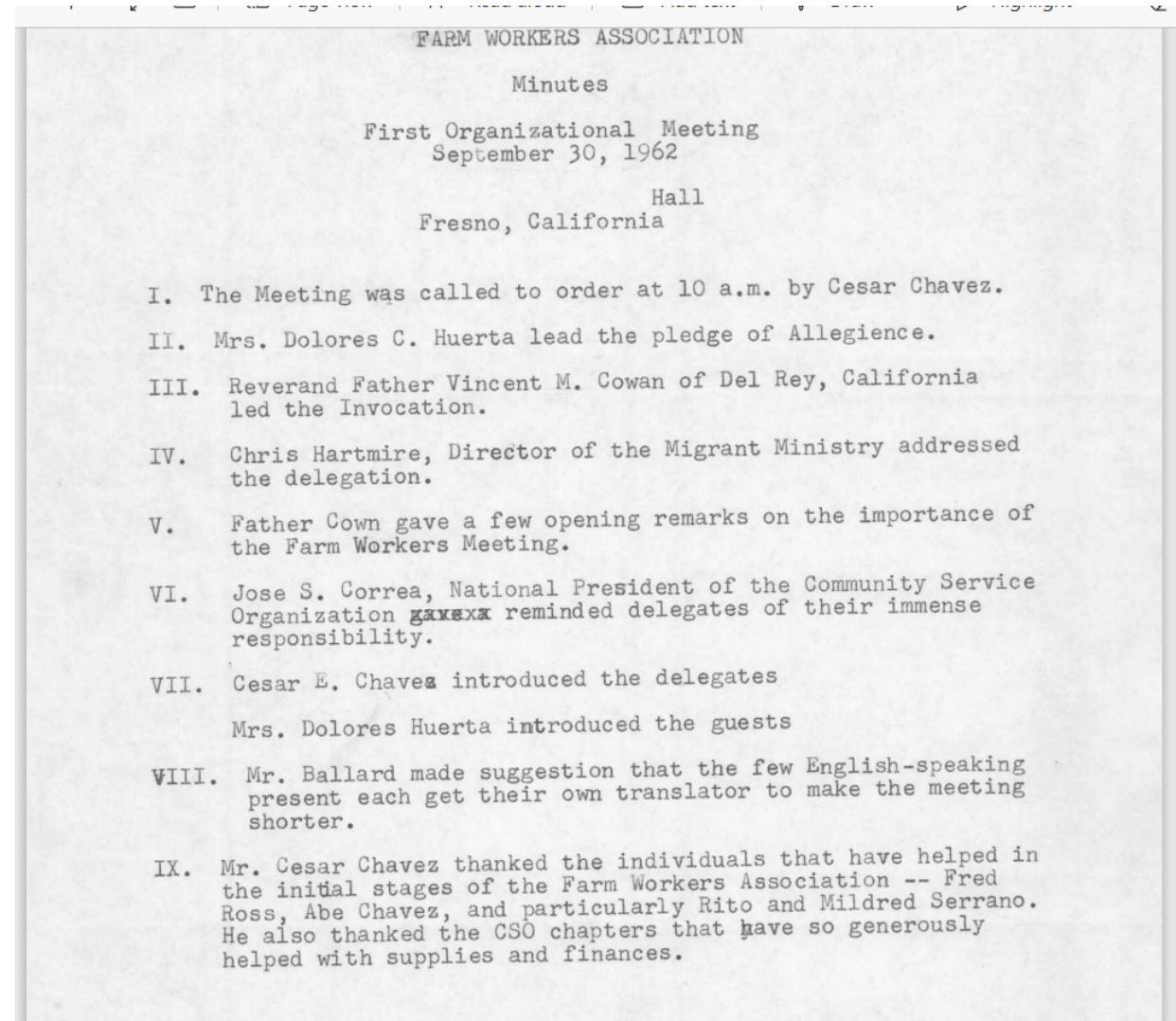
All of us who will be attending the Fresno conference will have to make some kind of sacrifice to get there. All of us will have to either layoff work or postpone some important chore in order to get to Fresno. We will be there. How about you? We need you and expect to see you then.

IMPORTANT Please write to the above address and let us know that you will be coming. If for some very strong reason you can't be there still write a Post card or letter wishing us success. In this way we will know that you are supporting the movement. Thank you

Sincerely,  
Cesar E. Chavez

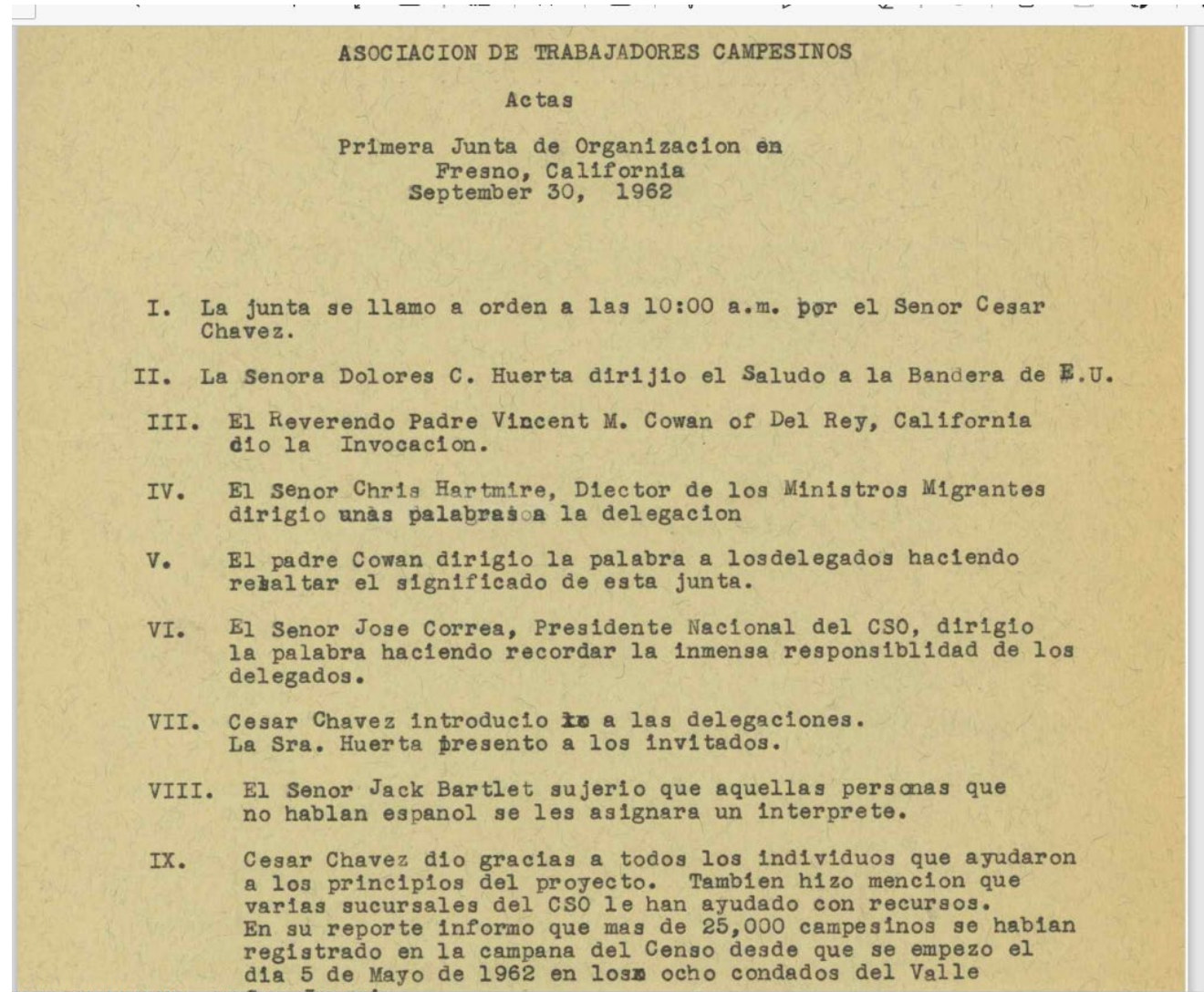
# Evidence to support NFWA organizational meeting held at the Edison Social Hall.

Minutes of NFWA meeting.  
English version.



# Evidence to support NFWA organizational meeting held at the Edison Social Hall.

Minutes of NFWA meeting.  
Spanish version





# Evidence to support NFWA organizational meeting held at the Edison Social Hall.

Listing of delegates attending NFWA meeting.

✓ Delegates - Alphabetical.

**FARM WORKERS ASSOCIATION**  
*Asociacion de Trabajadores Campesinos*  
 P. O. Box 894 - Delano, California

Acampo - Rosalio Perez ✓  
 " - Raymundo Salazar ✓  
 Bakersfield - Willie Delouth ✓  
 " - Jesus Saona ✓  
 Gopcoran - Mike Navarro ✓  
 " - Julio Hernandez ✓  
 Clovis - Ramon Ruiz ✓  
 " - Andres Lopez ✓  
 Cutter - James Givens ✓  
 Delano - Sal Gonzalez ✓  
 " - Jose Domingo Alvarez ✓  
 Del Rey - Pablo Magdaleno ✓

Del. Jesus Saona 1121 Feliz Dr Bakersfield, Cal.  
 Francisco Zavala 29450 Madera  
 Flavio O Zavala 29450 Madera

Del Margarito Saucedo 421 E. Ferguson Visalia  
 Juanita James 421 E Ferguson Visalia  
 Sostero Huerta 314 W Spruce Pinedale Calif  
 Refugio G. Huerta 314 W. Spruce Pinedale Calif.  
 Juan H James Modesto, Calif

Del. Sal Gonzales 1010 Austin Delano, Calif.

alternate → Pilar H James 54 summer son Visalia Calif  
 Antonio Valdez PO Box 475  
 Denderio Montez PO Box 475

Del Mary Dick 1409 Fresno St Madera  
 Rosa Gloria 1021 Sonora St Madera  
 Luis Gloria 1021 Sonora St Madera  
 Alpa Miranda 1460 M St. Fresno

Del } Rosalio Perez PO Box 224 Acampo  
 Del } Raymundo Salazar PO Box 402 Acampo  
 Del } Gustavo Salazar PO Box 402 Acampo  
 Del. James E. Lewis 335 Glenwood Delano

Image Source: United Farm Worker archives, Wayne State University.

# Evidence to support NFWA organizational meeting held at the Edison Social Hall.

Delegates to the  
Fresno 1962  
NFWA convention.



Image Source: Copy of image provided by Gilbert Padilla former Secretary/Treasurer of UFW  
Original source unknown.

# Evidence to support NFWA organizational meeting held at the Edison Social Hall.

NFWA delegate credential authorization to represent a farmworker committee from the City of Stockton, County of San Joaquin.

**FARM WORKERS ASSOCIATION**  
*Asociacion de Trabajadores Campesinos*  
P. O. Box 894 -:- Delano, California

SEPTIEMBRE 22, 1962

C R E D E N C I A L

A QUIEN CORRESPONDA

EL PORTADOR, SR . Ambrasio Almeida, HA SIDO OFICIAL-  
MENTE AUTORIZADO PARA REPRESENTAR AL COMITE DEL PUEBLO DE  
Stockton DEL CONDADO DE San Joaquin, EN LA  
CONFERENCIA DE ESTA ASOCIACION EL DIA DOMINGO 30 DE SEPTIEMBRE  
1962 EN FRESNO, CALIFORNIA.

LA CONFERENCIA DEL CAMPESINO OTORGA VOZ Y VOTO AL PORTADOR:

CORDIALMENTE,  
Cesar Estrada Chavez  
CESAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ,  
DIRECTOR PRO TEMP

LUGAR DE LA CONFERENICA	- EDISON SOCIAL HALL
DOMICILIO	- 1405 CALIFORNIA AVE.
FECHA	- DOMINGO SEPTIEMBRE 30, 1962
HORARIO	- 9 de la mañana ha 3 de la tarde

# Evidence to support NFWA organizational meeting held at the Edison Social Hall.

Official ballot tally of the election of NFWA officers.

*Guillermo Casas*  
*Hanford*

FARM WORKERS ASSOCIATION  
(ASOCIACION DE TRABAJADORES AGRICOLAS)  
30 September 1962  
Edison Social Hall  
1405 California Avenue  
Fresno, California

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OFFICIAL BALLOT  
(CEDULA OFICIALE)

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PRESIDENT (PRESIDENTE)	VOTE FOR ONE (VOTE POR UNO)
1 <u>Jesus MARTINEZ</u> (Pinedale) <i>/// III III</i>	<i>III III III = 28</i>
Manuel Ayala (Stockton) <i>/// III I</i>	<i>= 11</i>

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SECRETARY-TREASURER (Secretario-Tesorero)	VOTE FOR ONE (Vote por Uno)
2 James Givens (Delano) <i>/// III I</i>	<i>= 11</i>
Roberto De Leon (Pinedale) <i>/// II</i>	<i>= 7</i>
<u>Antonio Orendain</u> (Hanford) <i>/// III</i>	<i>= 20</i>

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General Director (DIRECTOR GENERAL) Vote for One (Vote por Uno)	
<u>Cesar Chavez</u> <i>/// III I</i>	<i>= 16</i>

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VICE PRESIDENTE Vice President  
(VOTE POR UNO DE CADA CONDADO \* Vote for one per County)

Image Source: United Farm Worker archives, Wayne State University.

# Major Convention Events

- The convention was a one-day event that was conducted under Robert's Rules of Order.
- Election of officers was conducted
- Monthly dues were set \$3.50

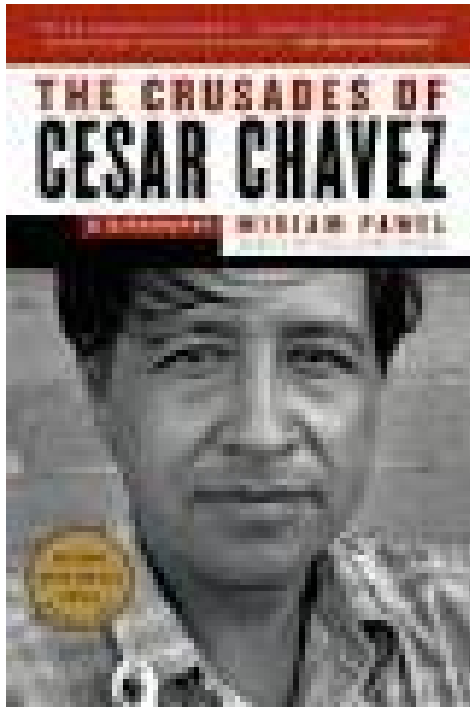
Motions were approved to establish a:

- Credit union
- Hiring hall
- Group insurance
- According to the meeting minutes, *La Causa* was adopted as the official motto and the thunderbird eagle as its iconic symbol.

# Major Convention Events

- It was a daunting struggle to organize laborers who lived in small isolated rural communities, most spoke only Spanish, many were migrant workers, and some lived in labor camps.

# The location of the NFWA convention has been corroborated.



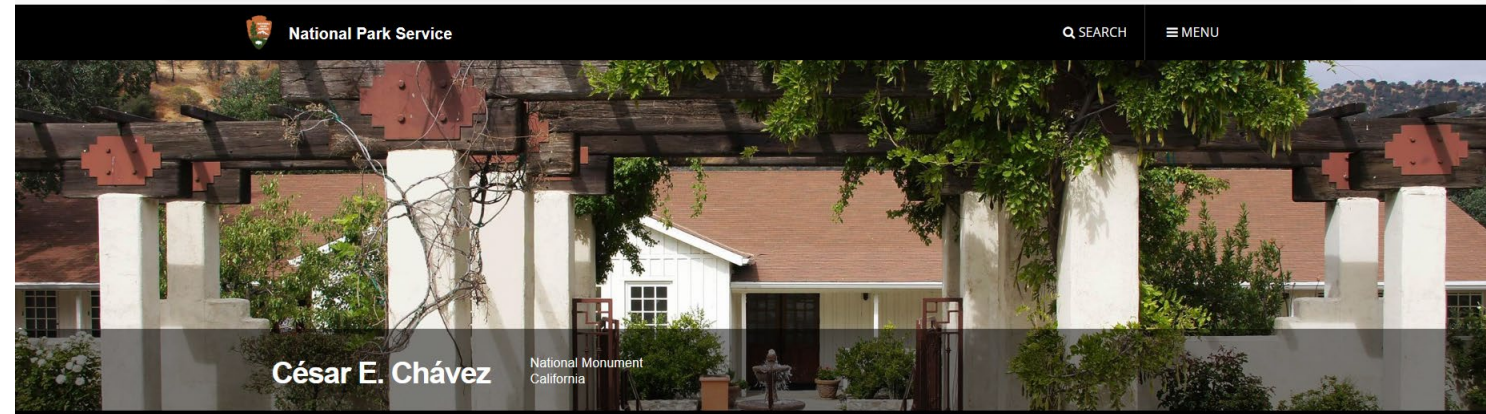
*About 150 workers and their families gathered at 10:00 am on Sunday at the Edison Social Hall at 1405 California Street in Fresno...*

*He [Cesar Chavez] asked for a motion to formally organize the Farm Workers Association. P.88*

The crusades of Cesar Chavez  
Miriam Pawel, 2014

# Federal government recognition of Chavez' contributions.

National Park Service:  
Statement of  
recognition of the  
contributions of Cesar  
E. Chavez.



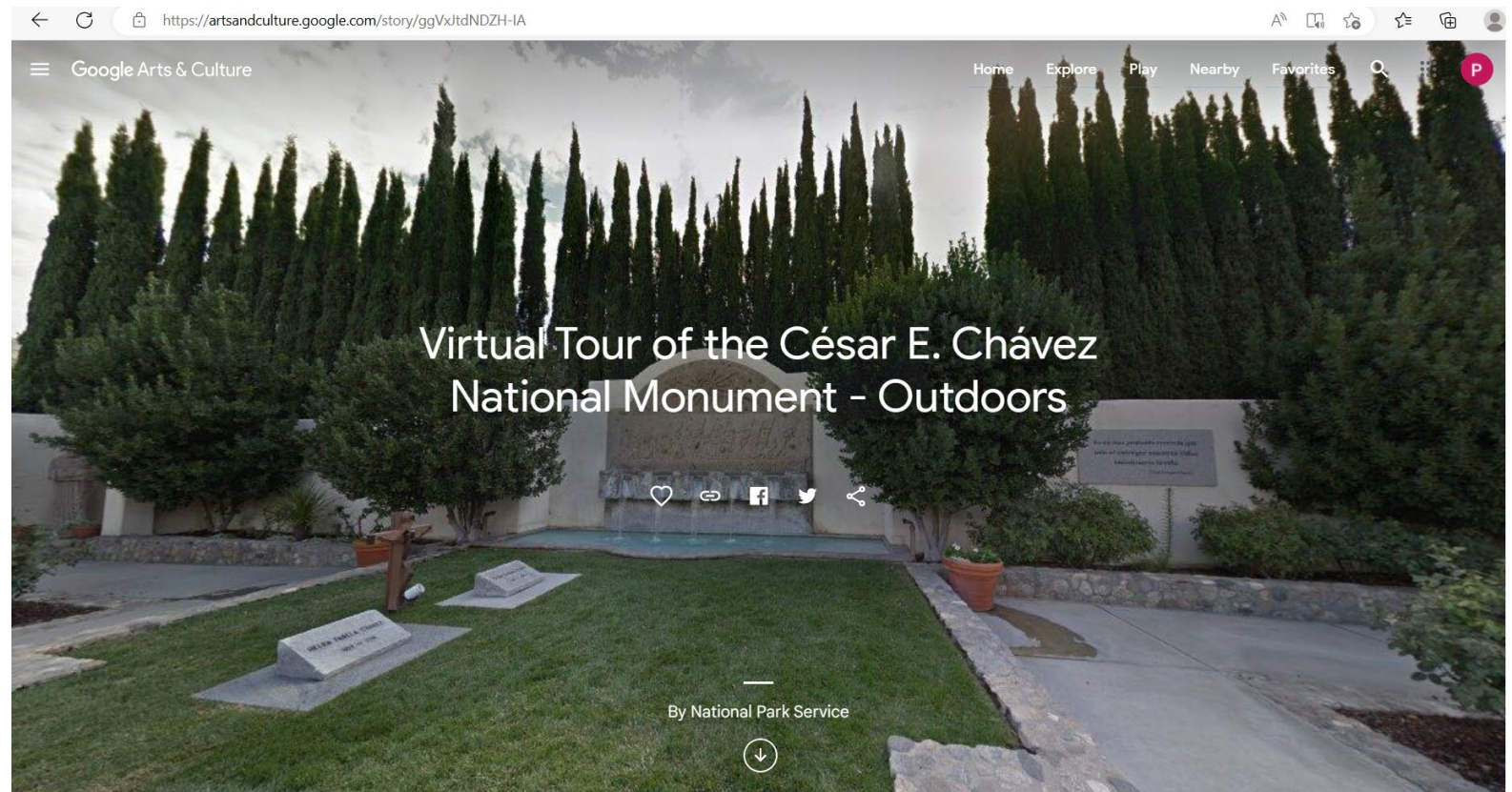
¡Si, Se Puede! Yes, we can.

Widely recognized as the most important Latino Leader in the United States during the twentieth century, Cesar E. Chavez led farm workers and supporters in the establishment of the country's first permanent agricultural union. His leadership brought sustained international attention to the plight of U.S. farm workers and secured for them higher wages and safer working conditions.



# Federal government recognition of Chavez' contributions.

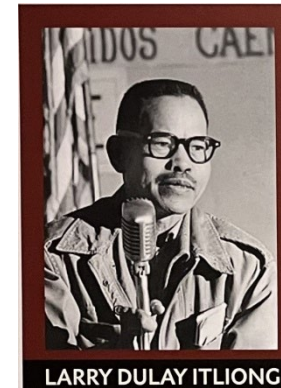
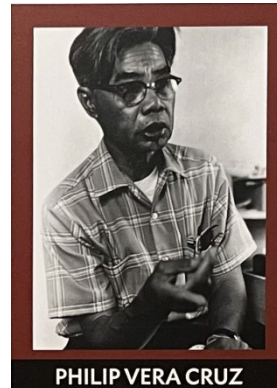
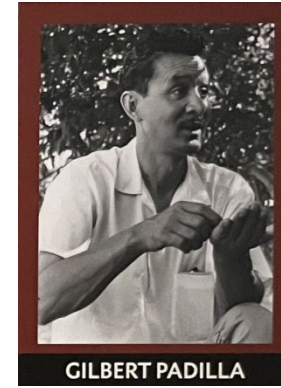
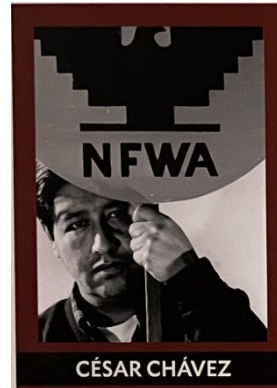
National Park Service:  
virtual Tour of Cesar  
E. Chavez National  
Monument.



Criteria: *Associated with lives of persons significant in our past...*(Fresno City Regulation, Art. 16, Sec. 12)

Persons of significance in our past:

Criterion met!



*Criteria: Associated with events that made a significant contribution to our history...(Fresno City Regulation, Art. 16, Sec. 12)\**

Criterion met!

- Signed first farmworker-led union contract, Schenley Inc.
- Unlike many other attempts to organize farmworkers, the NFWA was a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic organization.
- Successful nation-wide grape and lettuce boycott led to improved working conditions and wages for farmworkers.
- Led the establishment of the first state Agricultural Labor Relations Board that gave farmworkers the right to collective bargaining and union representation.

# Properties Associated with Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement.

Properties of interest related to Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement.

El Teatro Campesino	San Juan Bautista					✓	✓		
Mission San Juan Bautista	San Juan Bautista						✓		
<b>Sacramento-Stockton-Modesto-Fresno-Caruthers-Visalia-Porterville, CA Area</b>									
Migrant Farm Worker Housing Center	Calistoga					✓			
St. Mary's Church	Stockton			✓					
Graceada Park	Modesto						✓		
Fresno County Jail	Fresno						✓		
El Centro Campesino Cultural	Fresno					✓			
Sikkema Dairy Ranch	Caruthers							✓	
Linnell Farm Labor Center	Visalia					✓			
Woodville Farm Labor Center	Porterville					✓			
<b>Delano, CA Area</b>									
The Forty Acres	Delano					✓	✓	✓	✓
Filipino Community Hall	Delano					✓			
People's Bar and Café	Delano					✓			
Cesar and Helen Chavez Family Residence	Delano				✓	✓			
NFWA Office (Albany Street)	Delano				✓	✓			

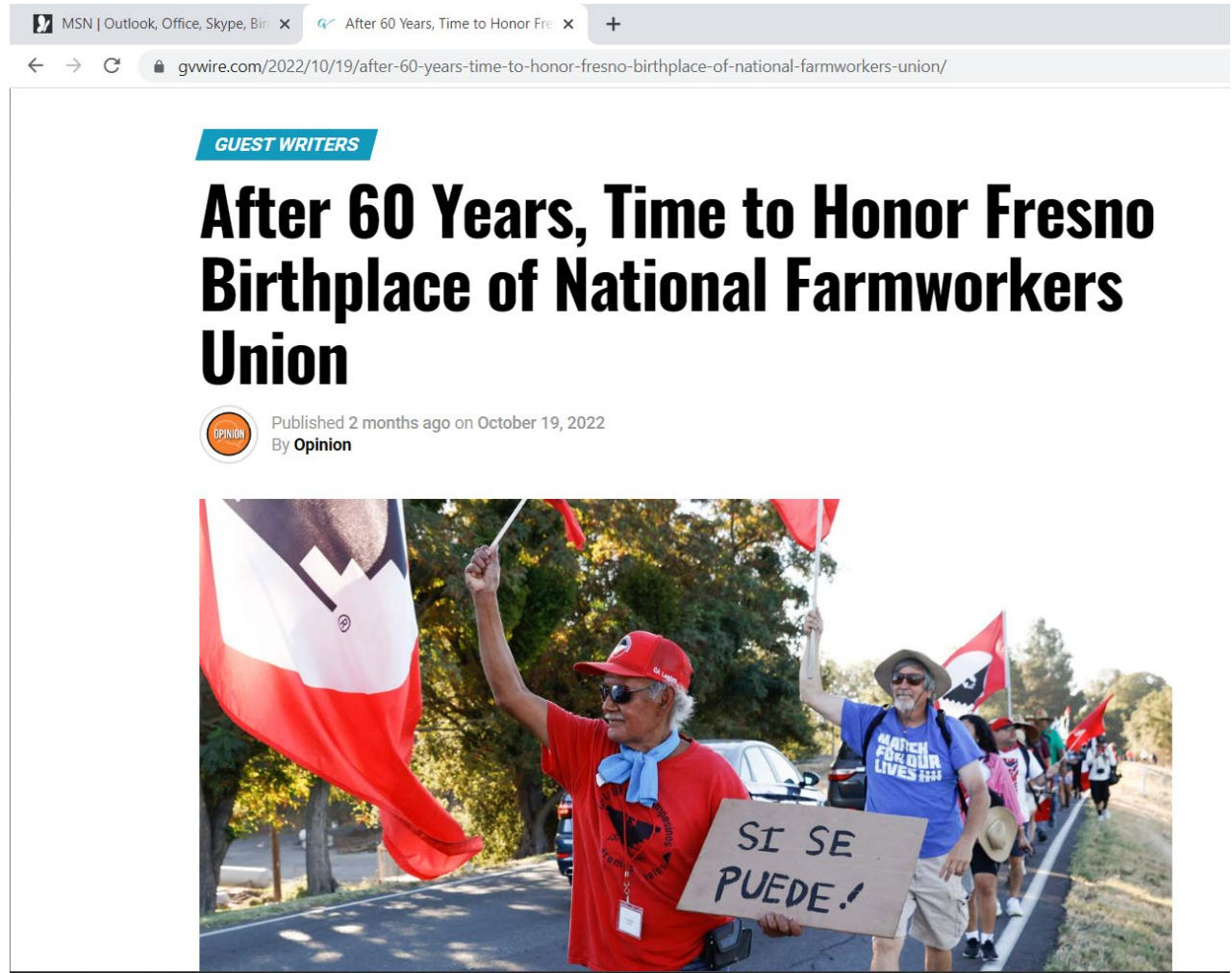
Source: National Park Service

# Article: Birthplace of National Farmworkers Union

GV Wire: Time to Honor Fresno Birthplace of National Farmworkers Union.

Source:

<https://gvwire.com/2022/10/19/after-60-years-time-to-honor-fresno-birthplace-of-national-farmworkers-union>




MSN | Outlook, Office, Skype, Bir x After 60 Years, Time to Honor Fre x +

gvwire.com/2022/10/19/after-60-years-time-to-honor-fresno-birthplace-of-national-farmworkers-union/

**GUEST WRITERS**

## After 60 Years, Time to Honor Fresno Birthplace of National Farmworkers Union

Published 2 months ago on October 19, 2022  
By Opinion



We appreciate your thoughtful consideration  
and support of our proposal.

**¡Si Se Puede!**  
**It Can Be Done!**