(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

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.

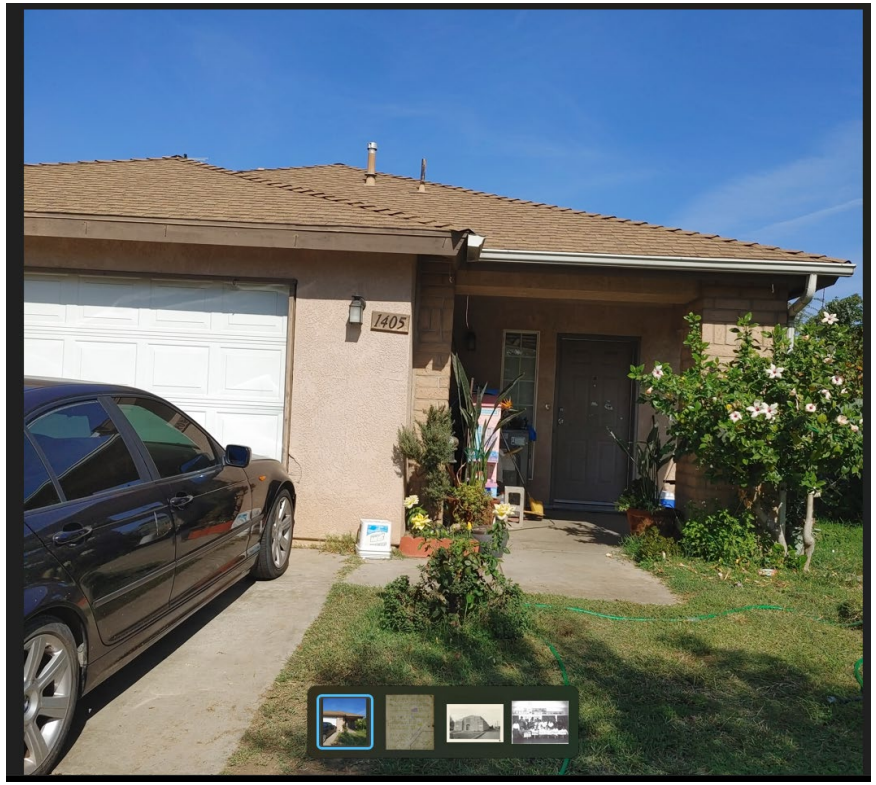


Image source: Dr. Paul Garcia

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 Assocaiation 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. Theonly 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 ISTHE MEANING OF THIS COMFERENCE

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 unjustice 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.

FARM WORKERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes

First Organizational Meeting
September 30, 1962

Hall
Fresno, California

I. The Meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Cesar Chavez.

II. Mrs. Dolores C. Huerta lead the pledge of Allegience.

III. Reverand Father Vincent M. Cowan of Del Rey, California led the Invocation.

IV. Chris Hartmire, Director of the Migrant Ministry addressed the delegation.

V. Father Cown gave a few opening remarks on the importance of the Farm Workers Meeting.

VI. Jose S. Correa, National President of the Community Service Organization gaxexa reminded delegates of their immense responsibility.

VII. Cesar E. Chavea introduced the delegates

Mrs. Dolores Huerta introduced the guests

VIII. Mr. Ballard made suggestion that the few English-speaking present each get their own translator to make the meeting shorter.

IX. Mr. Cesar Chavez thanked the individuals that have helped in the initial stages of the Farm Workers Association -- Fred Ross, Abe Chavez, and particularly Rito and Mildred Serrano. He also thanked the CSO chapters that have so generously helped with supplies and finances.

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

Minutes of NFWA meeting.
Spanish version

ASOCIACION DE TRABAJADORES CAMPESINOS

Actas

Primera Junta de Organizacion en
Fresno, California
September 30, 1962

I. La junta se llamo a orden a las 10:00 a.m. por el Senor Cesar Chavez.

II. La Senora Dolores C. Huerta dirijio el Saludo a la Bandera de E.U.

III. El Reverendo Padre Vincent M. Cowan of Del Rey, California dio la Invocacion.

IV. El Senor Chris Hartmire, Diector de los Ministros Migrantes dirigio unas palabras a la delegacion

V. El padre Cowan dirigio la palabra a losdelegados haciendo resaltar el significado de esta junta.

VI. El Senor Jose Correa, Presidente Nacional del CSO, dirigio la palabra haciendo recordar la inmensa responsiblidad de los delegados.

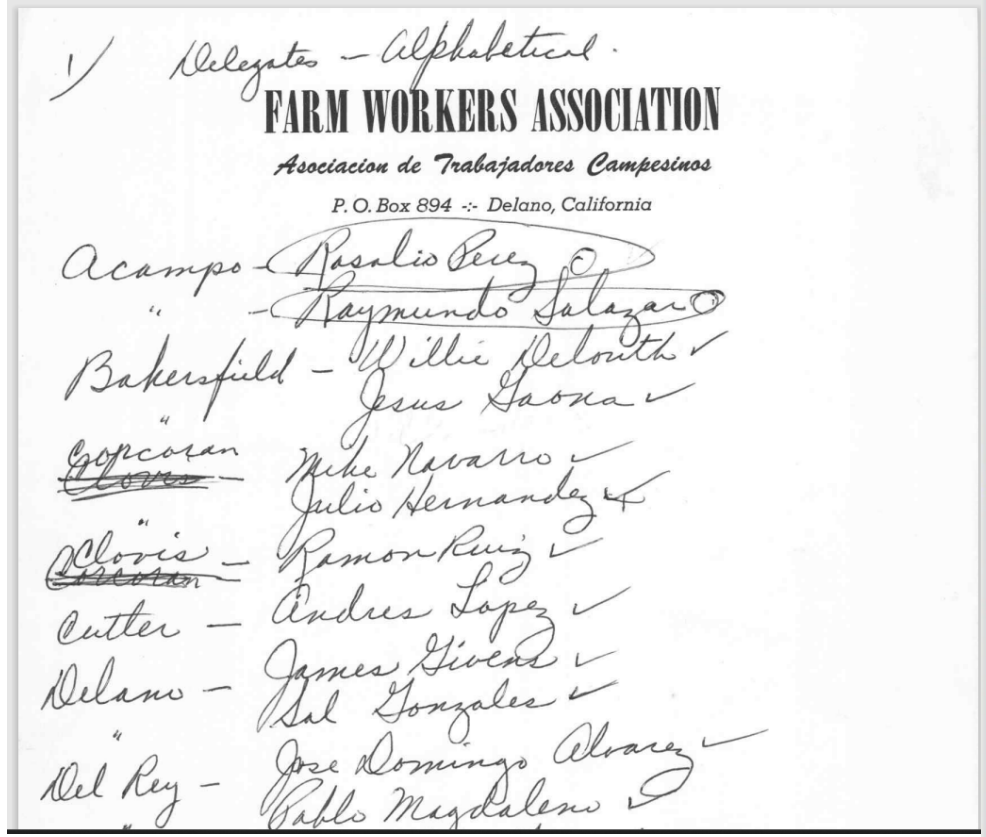
VII. Cesar Chavez introducio a las delegaciones.
La Sra. Huerta presento a los invitados.

VIII. El Senor Jack Bartlet sujerio que aquellas personas que no hablan espanol se les asignara un interprete.

IX. Cesar Chavez dio gracias a todos los individuos que ayudaron a los principios del proyecto. Tambien hizo mencion que varias sucursales del CSO le han ayudado con recursos. En su reporte informo que mas de 25,000 campesinos se habian registrado en la campana del Censo desde que se empezo el dia 5 de Mayo de 1962 en los ocho condados del Valle

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

Listing of delegates attending NFWA meeting.



1/ Delegates – Alphabetical.

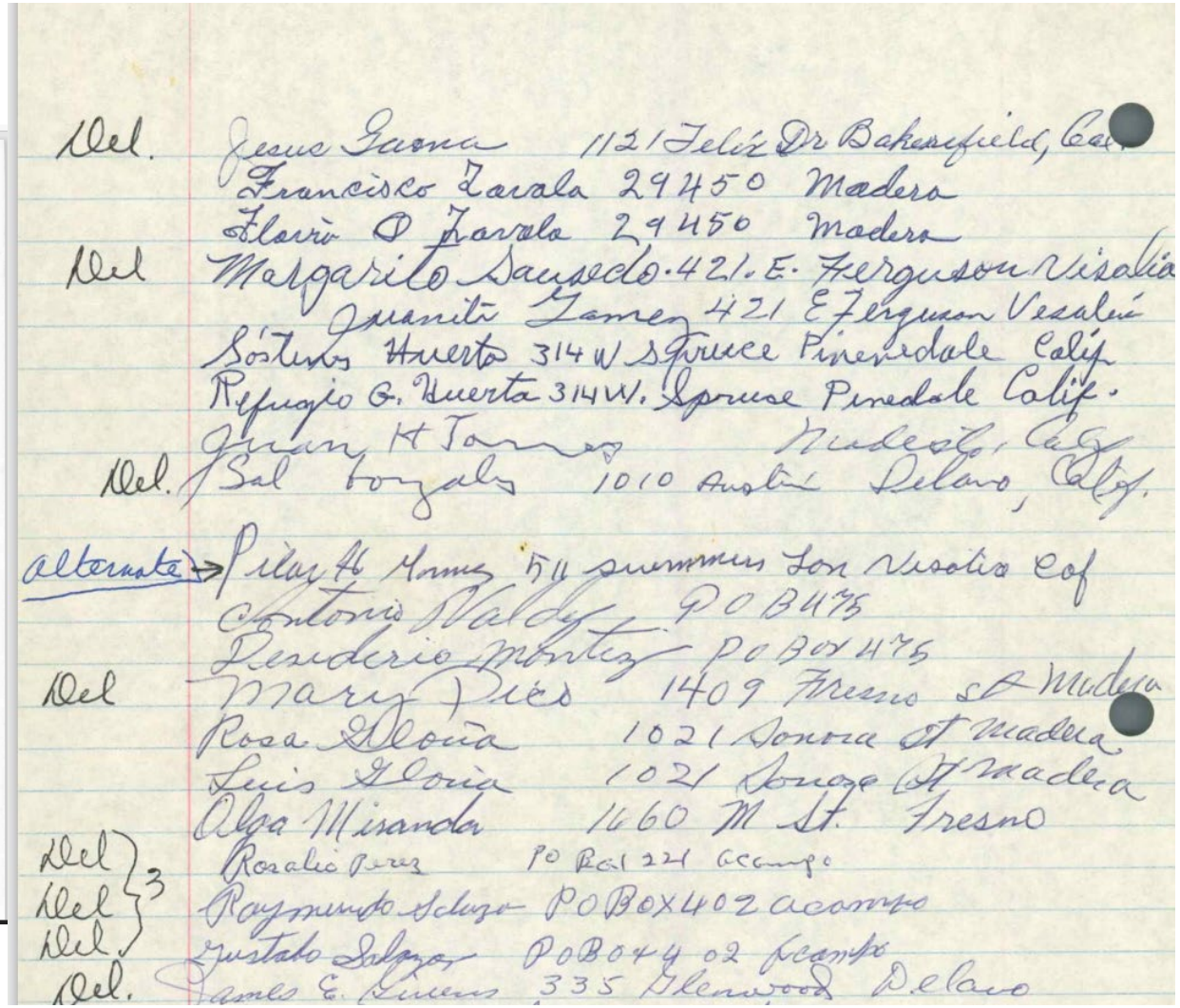
FARM WORKERS ASSOCIATION

Asociacion de Trabajadores Campesinos

P. O. Box 894 -:- Delano, California

Acampo – Rosalio Perez
" – Raymundo Salazar
Bakersfield – Willie Delouth
" Jesus Gaona
Corcoran ~~Clovis~~ – Mike Navarro
" Julio Hernandez
Clovis ~~Corcoran~~ – Ramon Ruiz
Cutler – Andres Lopez
Delano – James Givens
" Sal Gonzales
Del Rey – Jose Domingo Alvarez
" Pablo Magdaleno

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



Del. Jesus Gaona 1121 Felix Dr Bakersfield, Cal
Francisco Zavala 29450 Madera
Flavio O Zavala 29450 Madera
Del Margarito Saucedo 421 E. Ferguson Visalia
Juanita Gamez 421 E Ferguson Vesalia
Sóstenes Huerta 314 W Spruce Pinedale Calif
Refugio G. Huerta 314 W. Spruce Pinedale Calif.
Juan H Torres Modesto, Calif
Del. Sal Gonzales 1010 Austin Delano, Calif.
alternate → Pilar H Gomez 511 summers Lon Visalia Cal
Antonio Valdez PO B475
Desiderio Montez PO Box 475
Del Mary Pico 1409 Fresno St Madera
Rosa Gloria 1021 Sonora St Madera
Luis Gloria 1021 Sonora St Madera
Olga Miranda 1660 M St. Fresno
Del } 3 Rosalio Perez PO Box 221 Acampo
Del } Raymundo Salazar PO BOX 402 Acampo
Del } Gustavo Salazar PO BOX 402 Acampo
Del. James E. Givens 335 Glenwood Delano

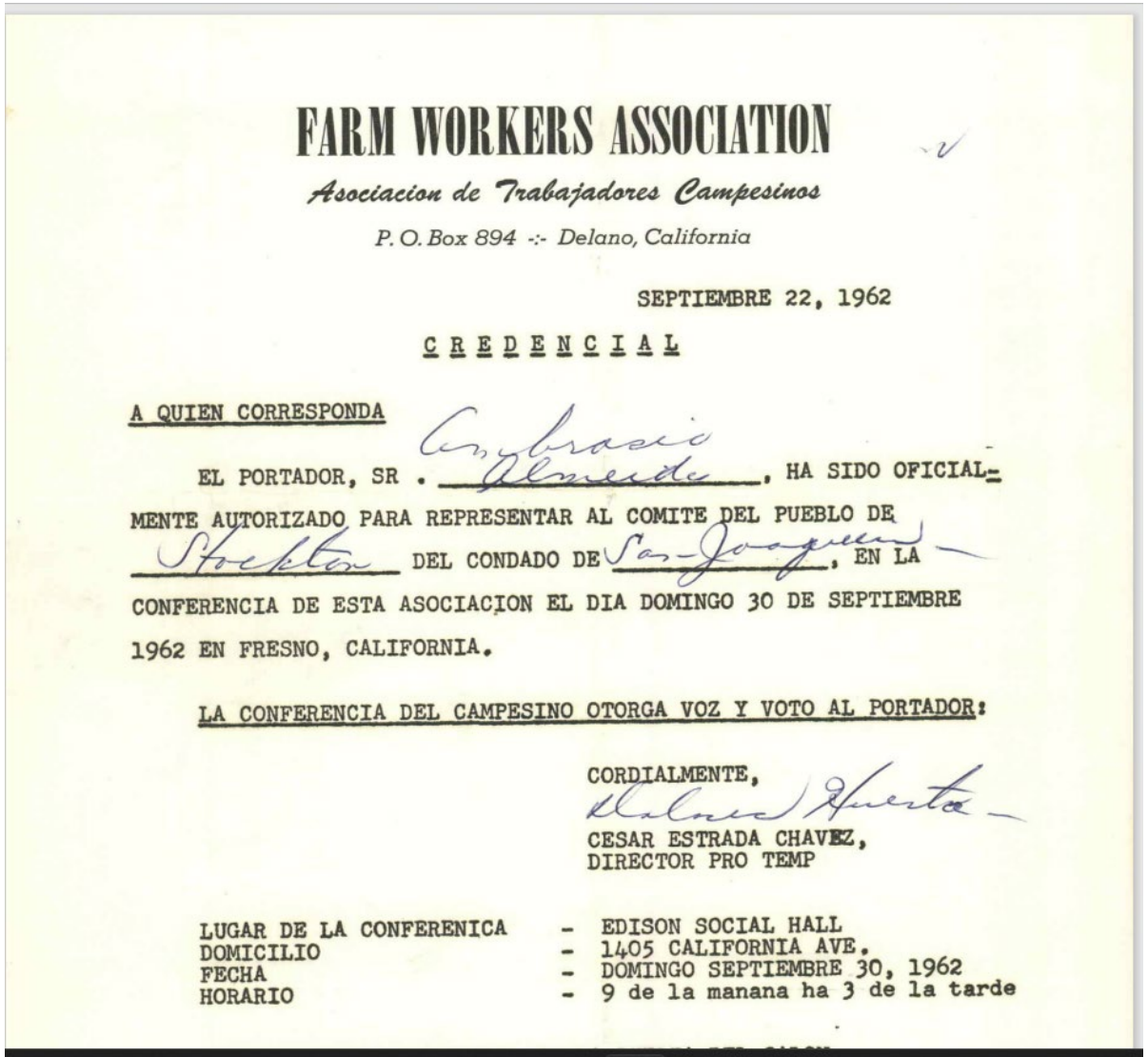
Evidence to support NFWA organizational meeting held at the Edison Social Hall.

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. Ambrosio Almeida, HA SIDO OFICIALMENTE 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:

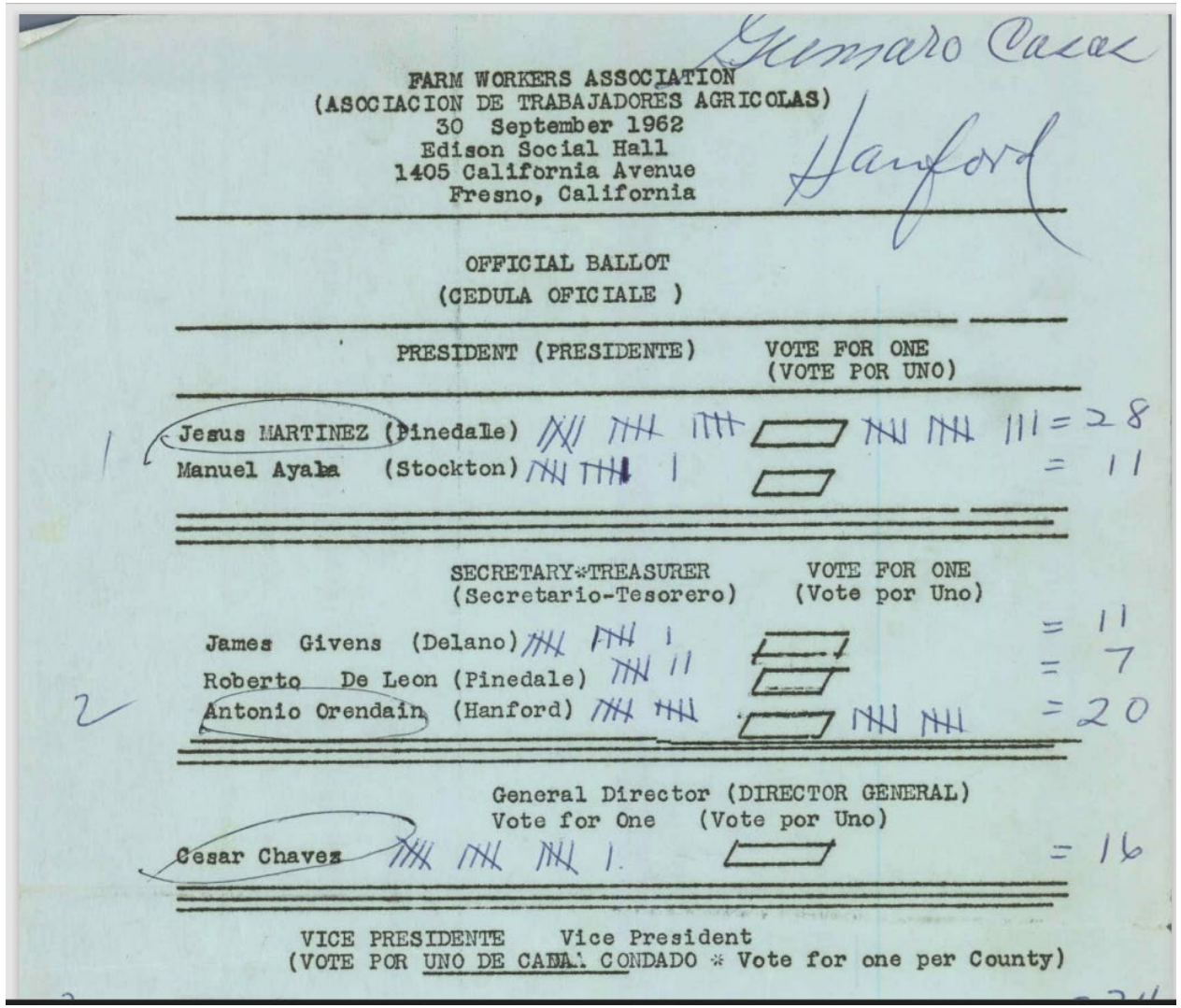
CORDIALMENTE,

CESAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ,
DIRECTOR PRO TEMP

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



Gumaro Casas

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

Hanford

OFFICIAL BALLOT
(CEDULA OFICIALE)

PRESIDENT (PRESIDENTE) VOTE FOR ONE (VOTE POR UNO)

1 Jesus MARTINEZ (Pinedale) = 28
Manuel Ayala (Stockton) = 11

SECRETARY-TREASURER (Secretario-Tesorero) VOTE FOR ONE (Vote por Uno)

James Givens (Delano) = 11
Roberto De Leon (Pinedale) = 7
2 Antonio Orendain (Hanford) = 20

General Director (DIRECTOR GENERAL)
Vote for One (Vote por Uno)

Cesar Chavez = 16

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

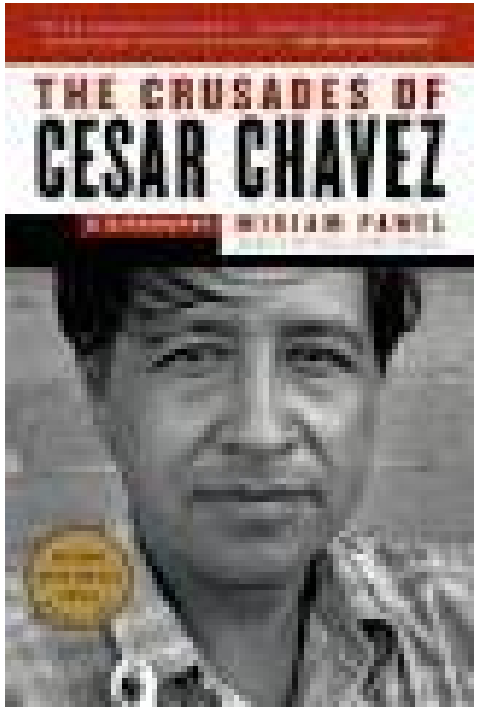
Motions were approved to establish a:

- 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…*

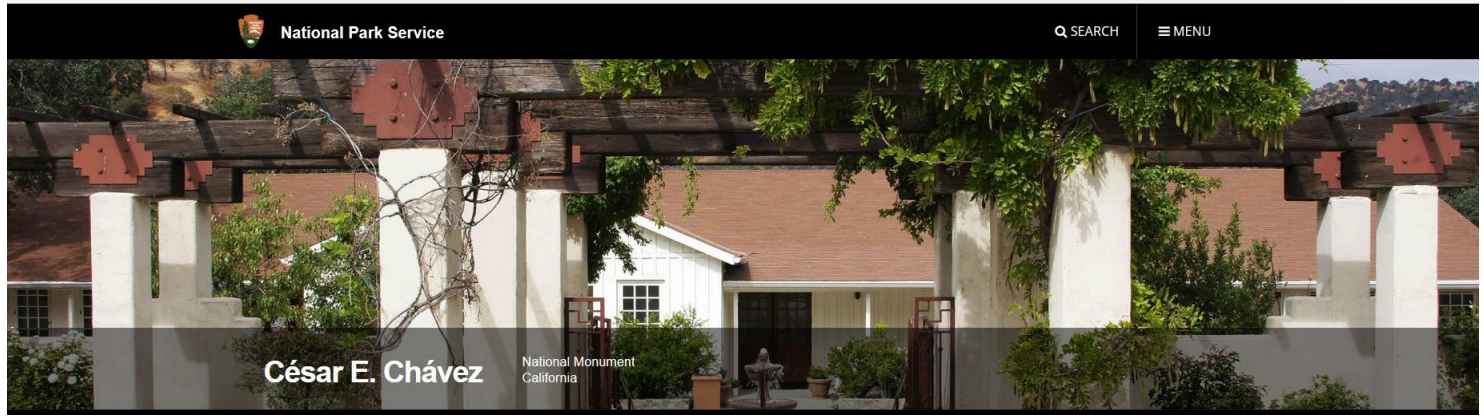
He [Cesar Chavez]asked for a motion to formally organize the Farm Workers Association. P.88

<u>The crusades of Cesar Chavez</u>

Miriam Pawel, 2014

Federal government recognition of Chavez' contributions.

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

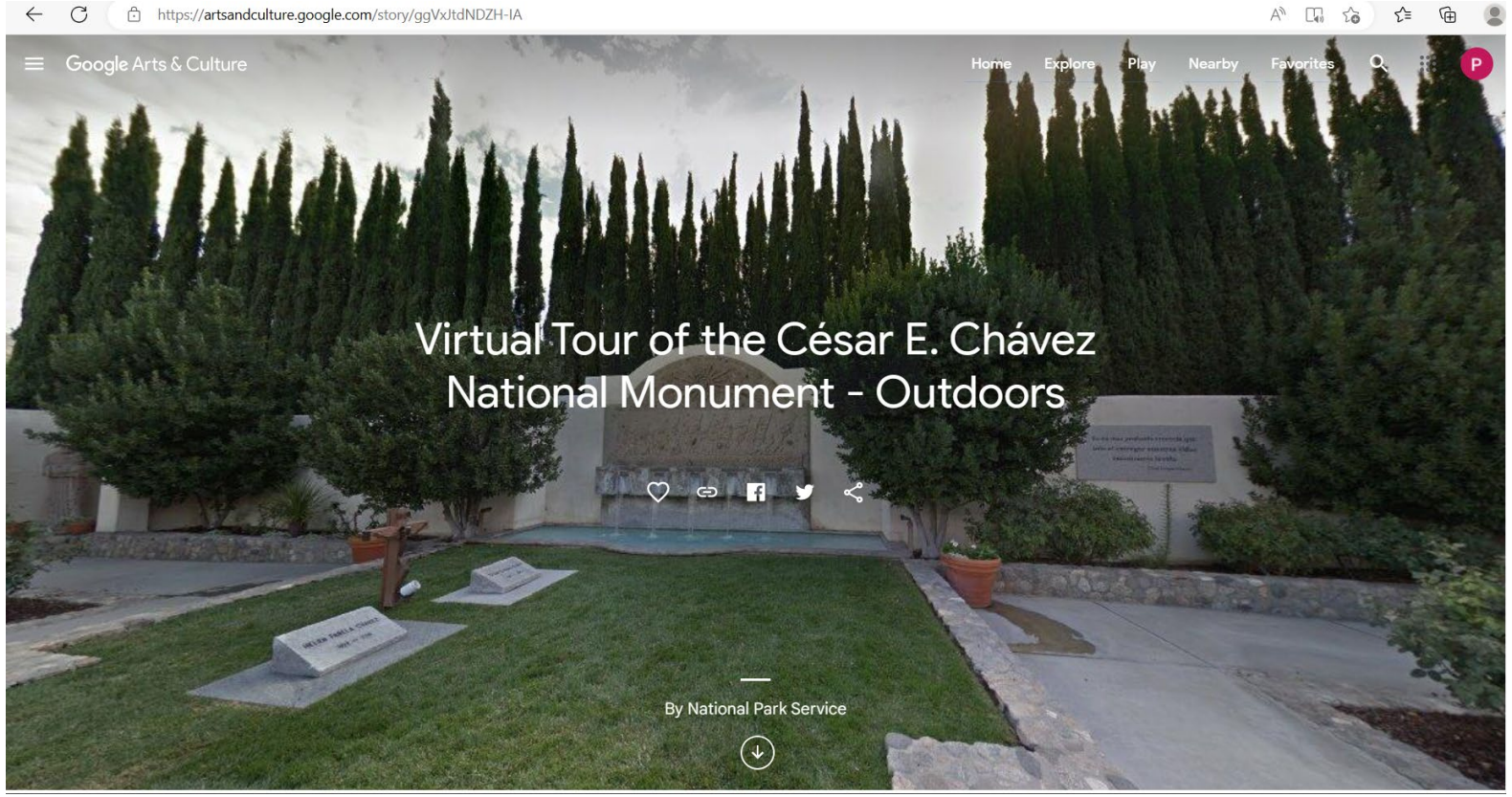


¡Si, Se Puede! Yes, we can.

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.

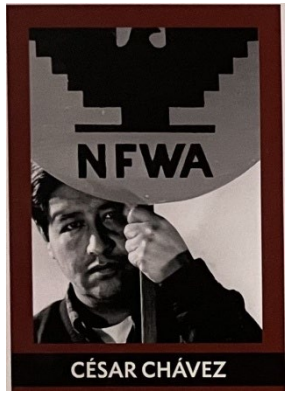
National Park Service: virtual Tour of Cesar E. Chavez National Monument.

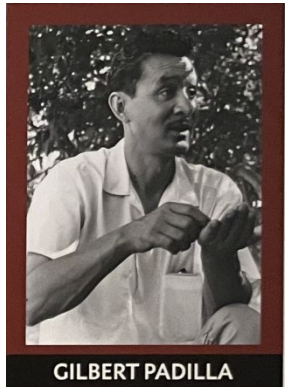


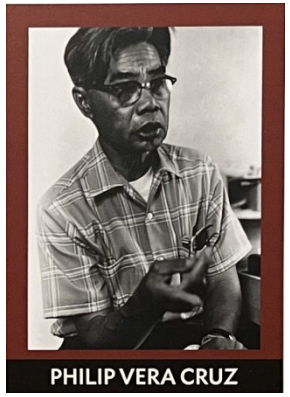
Criteria: *Associated with lives of persons significant in our past…*(Fresno City Regulation, Art. 16, Sec. 12)

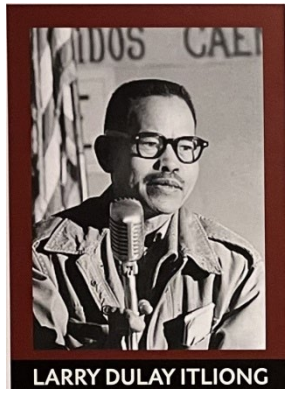
Persons of significance in our past:

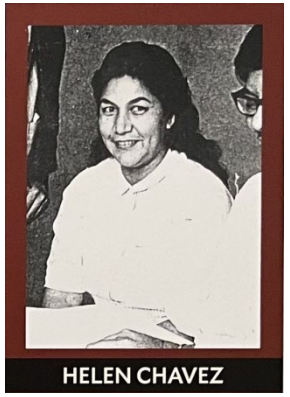
Criterion met!











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.

* Partial list

Properties Associated with Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement.

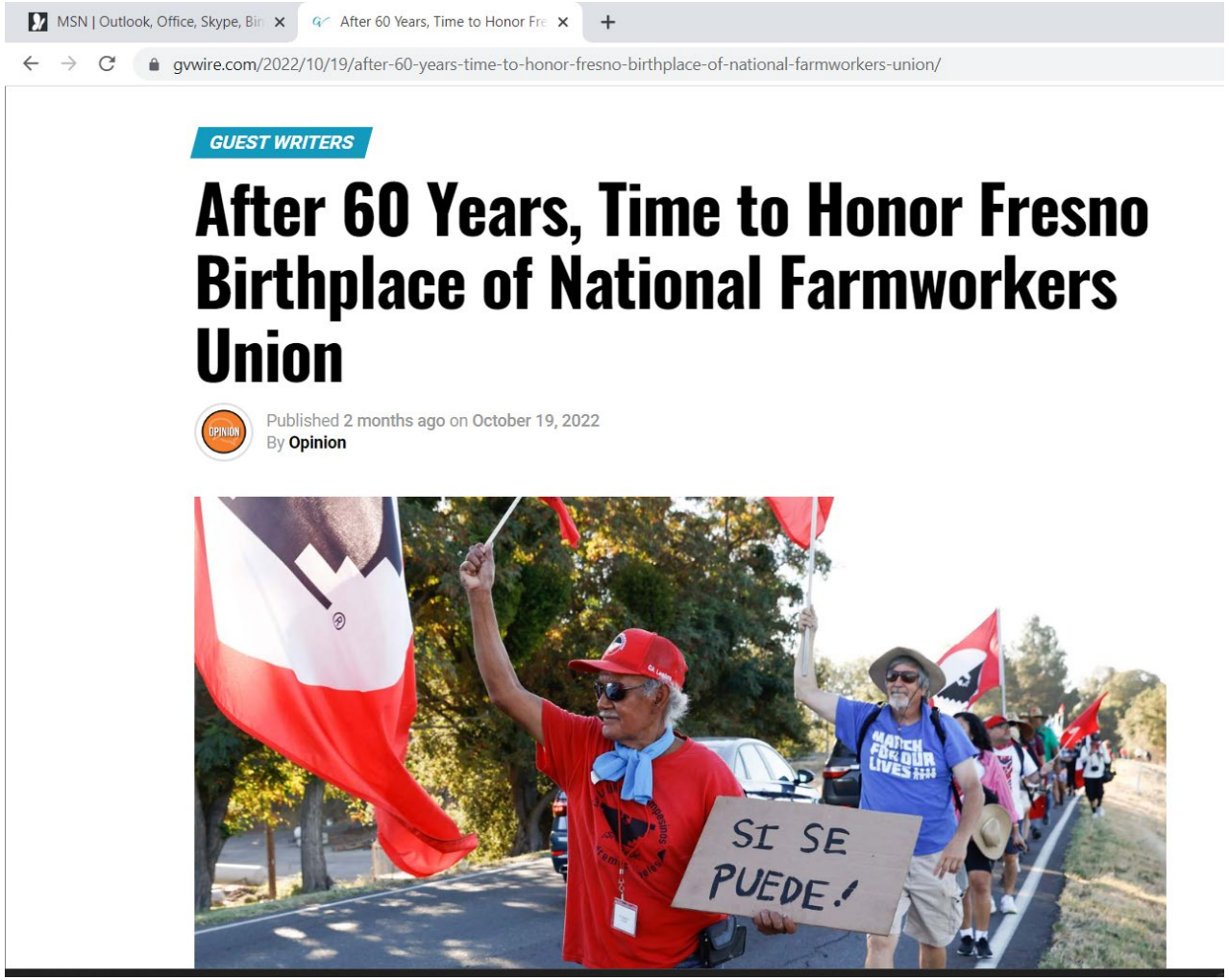
Properties of interest related to Cesar Chavez and the Farm Labor Movement.

El Teatro Campesino	San Juan Bautista					✓	✓		
Mission San Juan Bautista	San Juan Bautista						✓		
Sacramento-Stockton-Modesto-Fresno-Caruthers-Visalia-Porterville, CA Area									
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					✓			
Delano, CA Area									
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

We appreciate your thoughtful consideration and support of our proposal.

¡Si Se Puede!

It Can Be Done!