

(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.

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**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.

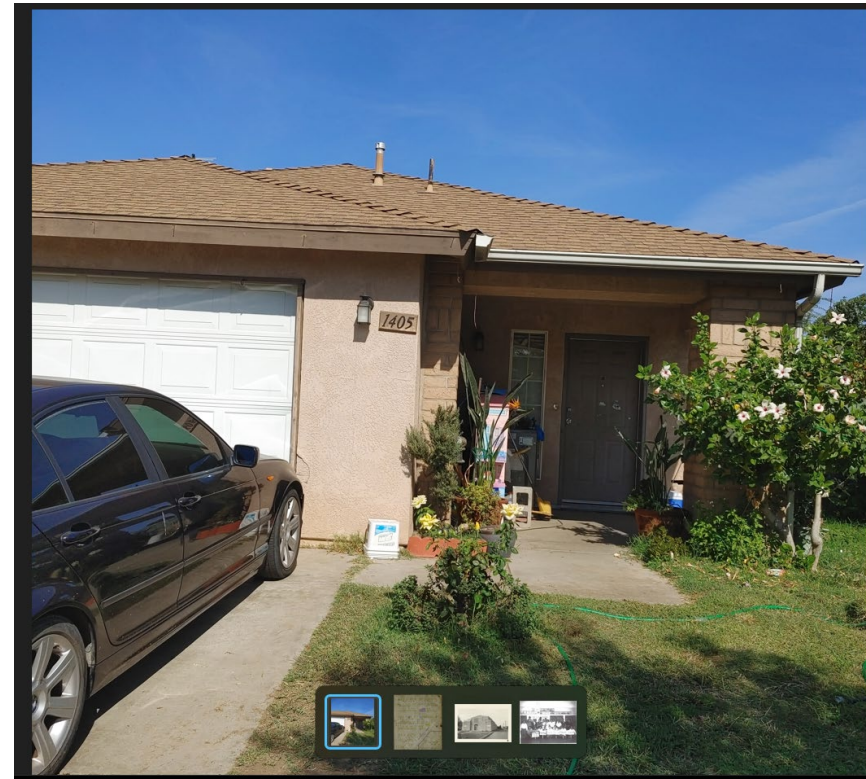


Image source: Dr. Paul Garcia



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 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 final 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 solutions to 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.

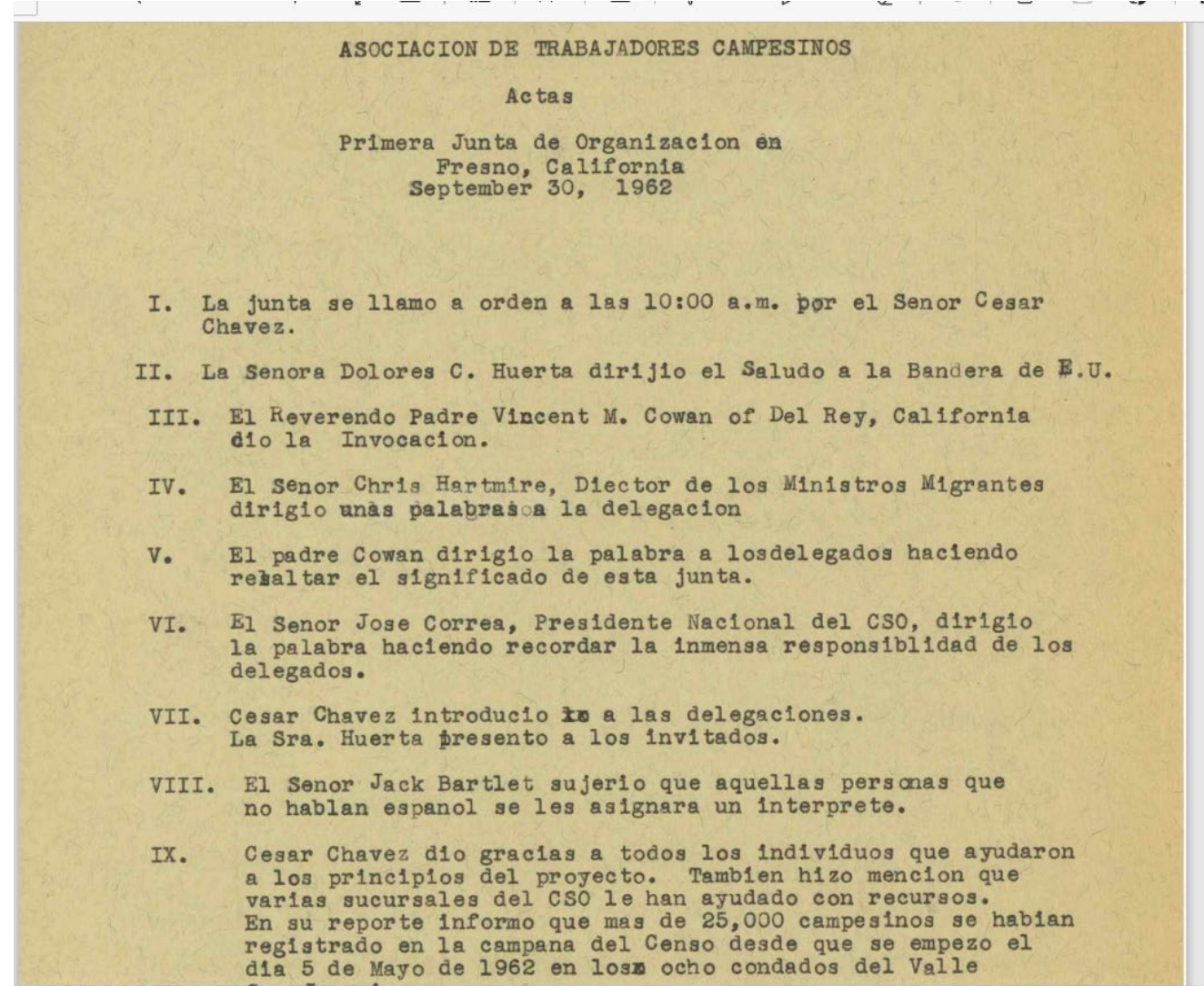
Minutes of NFWA meeting.
English version.

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 Allegiance.
- III. Reverend 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 ~~gave~~ reminded delegates of their immense responsibility.
- VII. Cesar E. Chavez 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



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

Listing of delegates attending NFWA meeting.

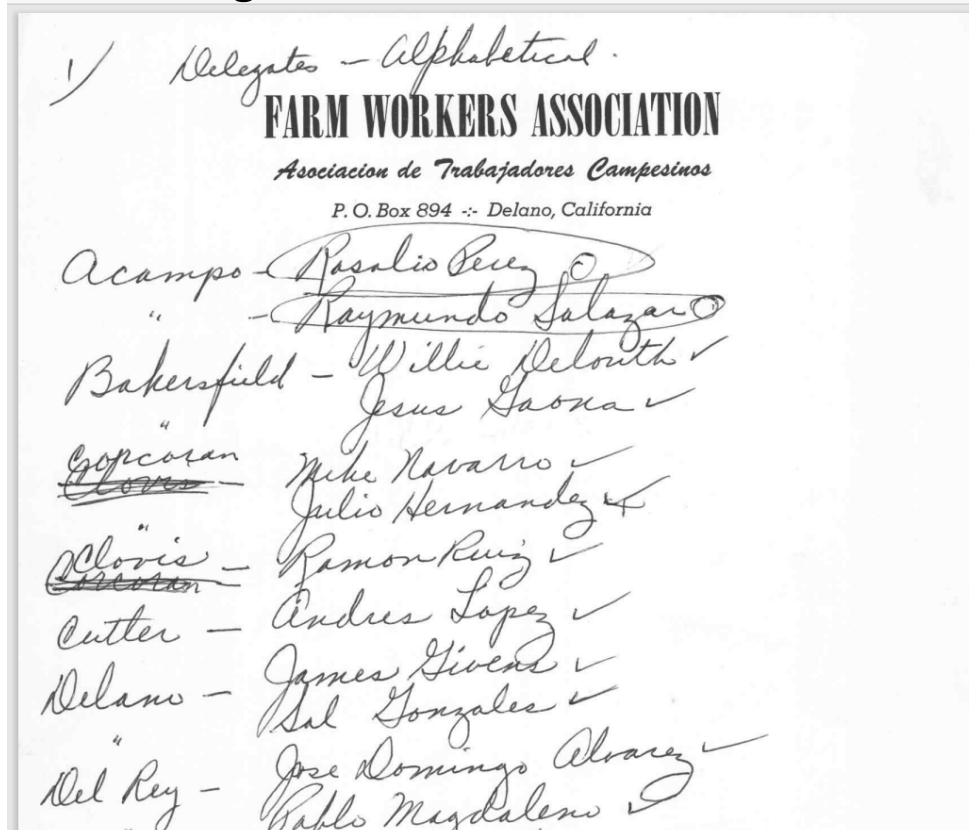
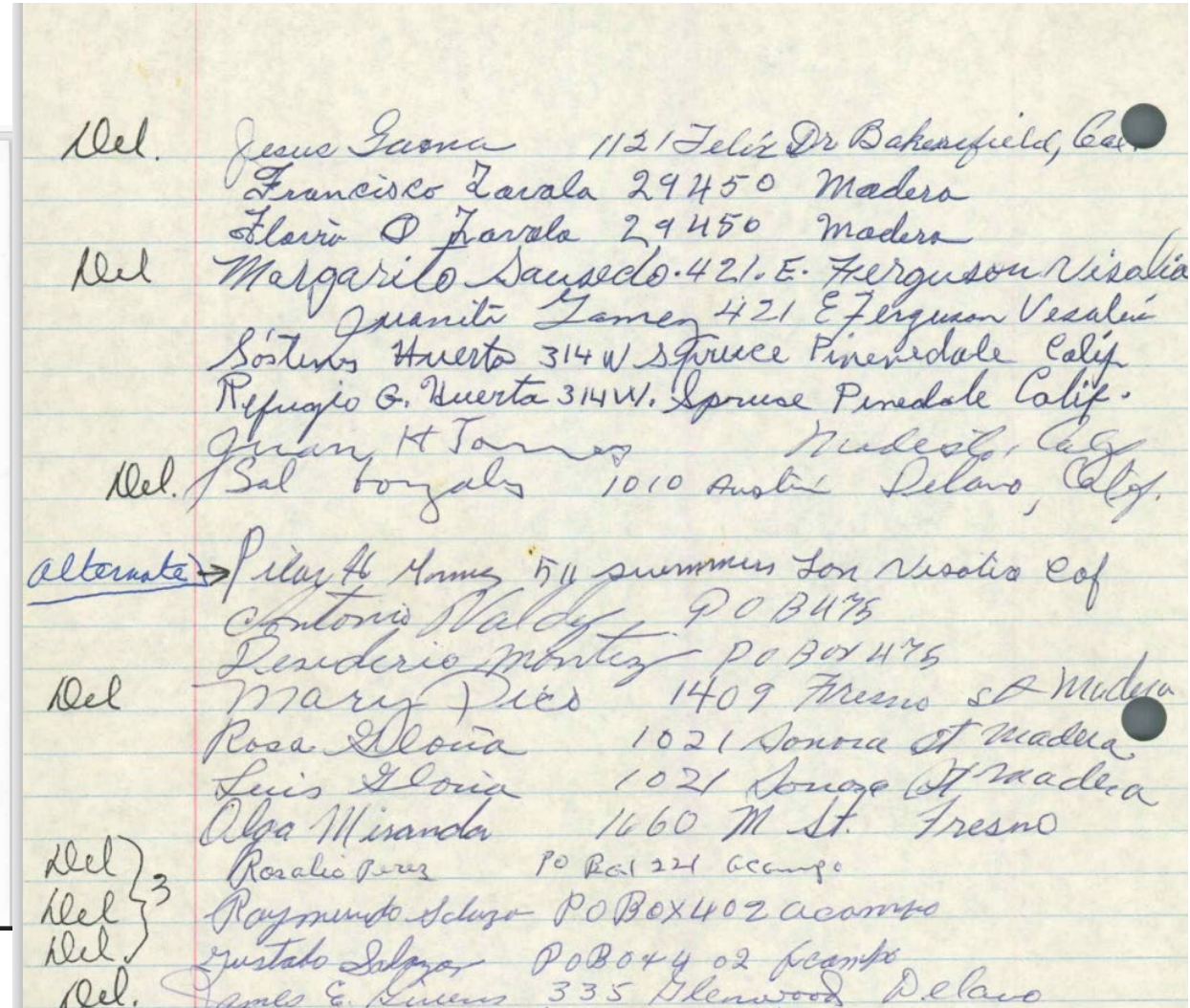


Image Source: United Farm Worker archives, Wayne State University.

2/23/2023



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 CONFERENCIA	- 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.

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

2/23/2023

Guillermo Casas
Hanford

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

OFFICIAL BALLOT
(CEDULA OFICIALE)

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

1 Jesus MARTINEZ (Pinedale) */// IIII* ☐ */// IIII* = 28
Manuel Ayala (Stockton) */// IIII* ☐ = 11

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

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

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

Cesar Chavez */// IIII* ☐ = 16

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

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

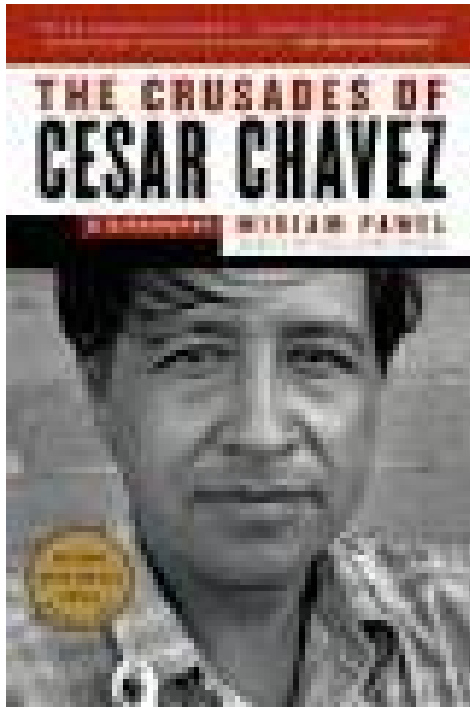
Motions were approved to establish a:

- 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.



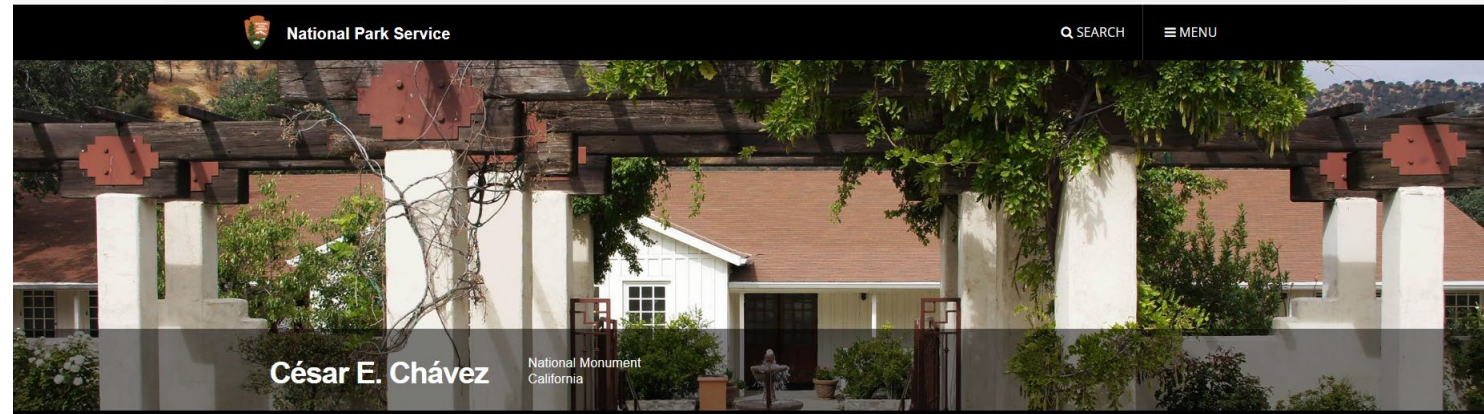
About 150 workers and their families gathered at 10:00 am on Sunday at the Edison Social Hall at 1405 California Street in Fresno...

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.

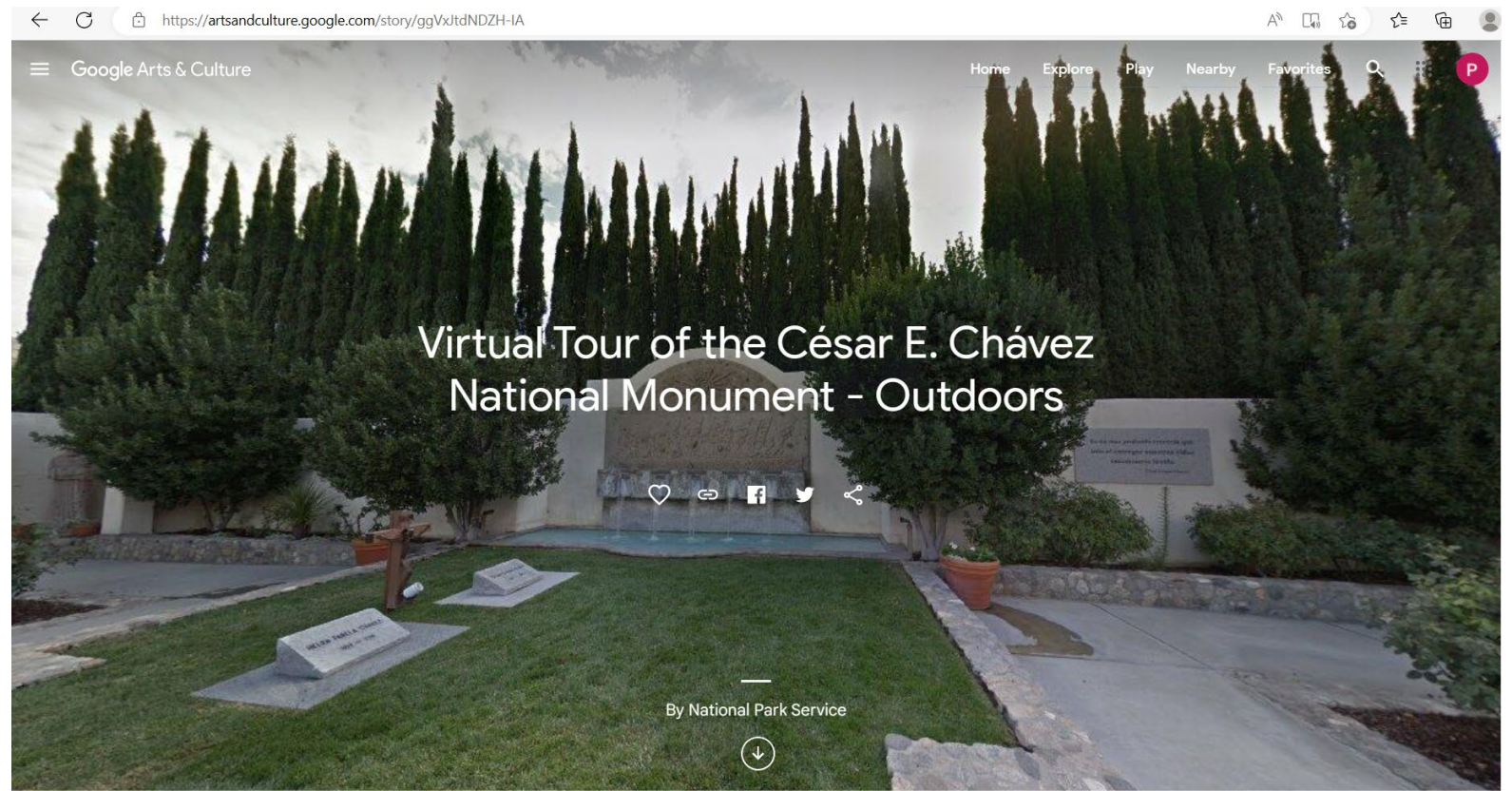


¡Si, Se Puede! Yes, we can.

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.

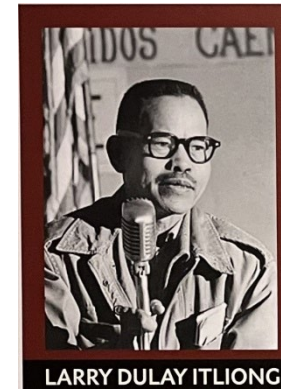
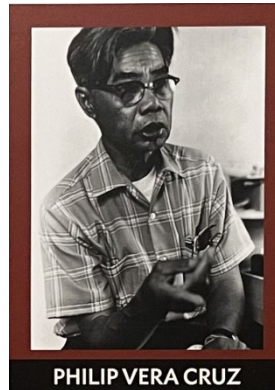
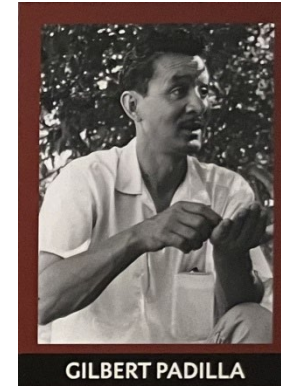
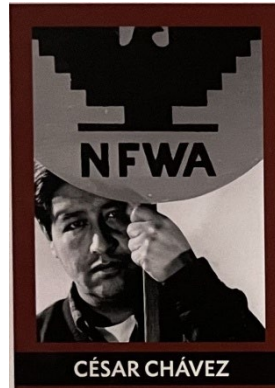
National Park Service:
virtual Tour of Cesar
E. Chavez National
Monument.



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						✓		
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				✓	✓			

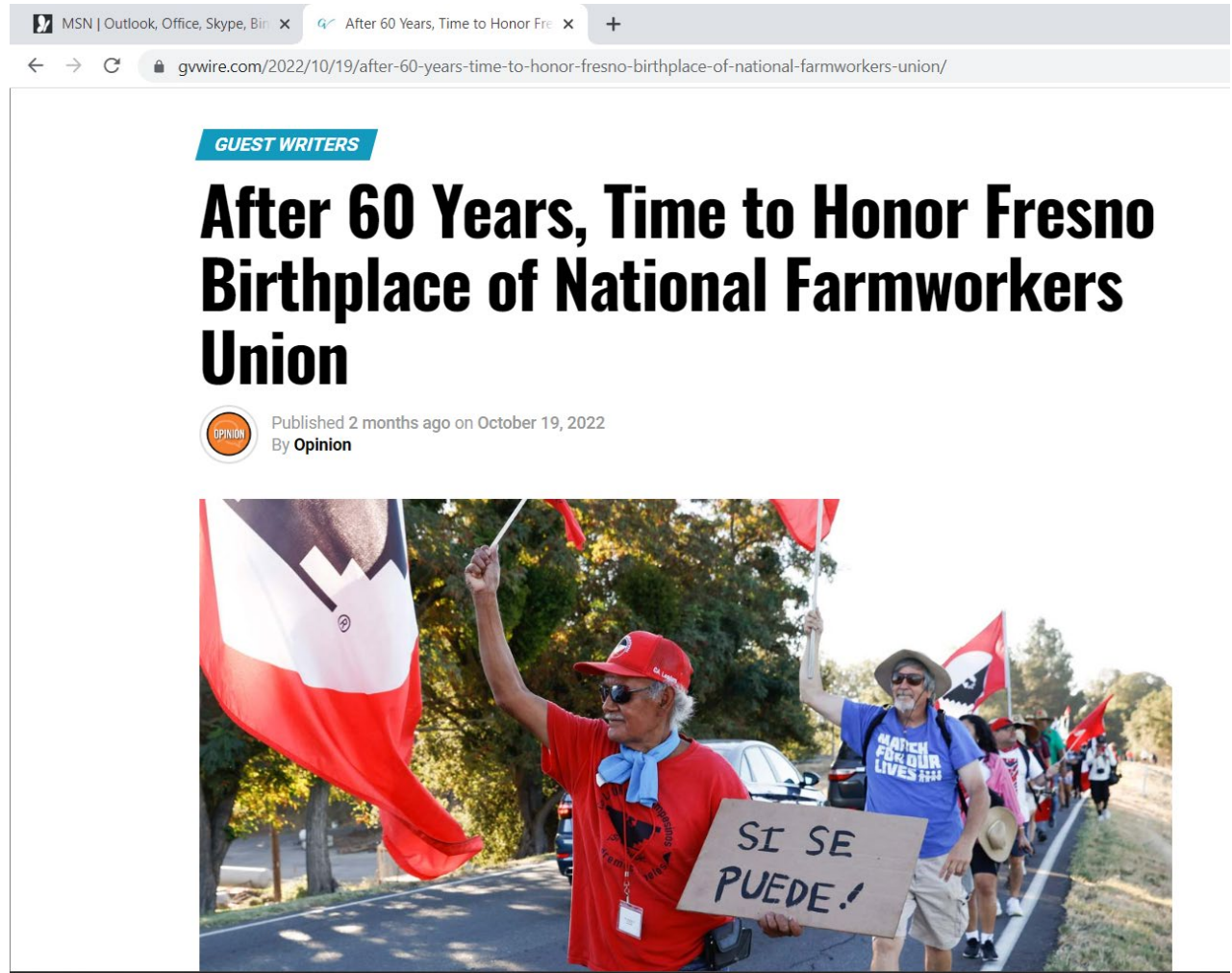
Source: National Park Service

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!