Presentado al
Auraria Library Discovery Wall Series
el 03 de diciembre de 2015

Presentado por
Hermano Antonio Esquibel, Vice President
SPMDTU Concilio No. 7 Denver, Colorado
Participant Goals for this Session

1. Participants will describe when, where and who founded the La Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (SPMDTU).

2. Participants will list the original goals of the SPMDTU.

3. Participants will be able to identify the location of the SPMDTU building and describe the activities that took place there.

4. Participants will learn and sing the “Hymno Oficial” of the SPMDTU.
La Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (1900 – 2015)
Concilio Superior Meeting Hall: Antonito, Colorado, Built 1925
Celedonio E. Mondagrón, Founder of *La Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos,*

Statue and Plaque Outside of the SPMDTU Hall in Antonito, Colorado

Source: Antonio Esquibel
Books on the SPMDTU
“to help workers during times of unemployment, illness, and injuries at work; to assist widows and orphans in the event of member’s death; and importantly, to unite the working class against discrimination in the modern industries emerging in the region” (SPMDTU Preámbulo of 1911).

Source, La Sociedad p.21
Railroad, Mining and Farming
“Rules adopted by the founders: show personal humility, compassion, and mercy; help fellow members during times of illness or other misfortunes; and promote the community’s welfare” (La Sociedad, p. 50).

In each community, La Sociedad’s primary motive was to unite workers for their mutual protection by the pooling of resources. (La Sociedad, p. 56)
Articles VI and VII complied in 1922 designated Colorado and New Mexico as the society’s *patria* (homeland) and Antonito, Colorado as it capital city, and it stipulated that membership was available only to persons “*de descendencia hispano-americana*” (of Hispanic American heritage). This requirement changed an earlier description of eligible members as *compatiotas mexicanos* (Mexican countrymen), clarifying the intention that the SPMDTU was for *hispano americanos* born in the United States or citizens of the United States and not for Mexicans residing in the nation of Mexico (*La Sociedad*, p. 54).
ARTICLE V

Eligible Person Membership:

Section 1. No person shall be denied membership on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, creed, disability, veteran status sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Section 2. The following shall not be eligible for membership in this society.

(a) In case where an applicant has a criminal charge pending before the bar of justice, application for membership will be held in abeyance until the issue is resolved.

Devisas and membership pins of the three women’s auxiliaries:
La Sociedad Auxiliarias Mutuas Beneficiaias or La Sociedad AMB
La Sociedad Femenial de Protección (SFDP)
La Sociedad Protectora Cooperativa (SPC)
Source: Ruben Archuleta
Former superior president Esequiel Salazar at Nambé Council No. 57 with Kathy Rivera, Celina Ortiz, Florinda Lujan and Angela Archuleta.

Source: Daniel Salazar, 1993
Celedonio E. Mondragón, 2/25/1863 – 6/8/1923

- Born in Cenicero, Colorado
- *Platero* (jewelry maker) in Santa Fe, NM
- Member of *La Orden de Caballeros de Protección Mutua por la Ley y Orden* (Order of Knights for Mutual Protection in Law and Order) *La Fraternidad Piadosa de Nuestro Padre Jesus Nazareno* (Los Penitentes)
- Founded SPMDTU on November 26, 1900
- Witnessed the turmoil of the late 1880s and 1890s in northeastern New Mexico
- Sympathized with the *Gorras Blancas*; he was pacifist and advocated the principles of brotherhood, harmony and service to the community rather than armed resistance
- Rancher and Postmaster of Cenicero

Sources: Daniel Salazar and Center for Southwest Research, Universities Libraries, University of New Mexico
FOUNDING MEMBERS
OF THE SPMDTU

Celdonio E. Mondragón,
Presidente

Rafael Lucero,
Secretario

José Ramón Quintana,
Tesorero

Andrés Trujillo,
Consejero

Juan Antonio Márquez,
Calificador

Teodoro Trujillo,
Mariscal

Juan Filomeno Truillo,
Guardia

Source: La Historia de la Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos (back cover)
There were 65 concilios (listed on following slides) in three states in the 1950s and 1960s with a membership between 1,300 and 1,500.

In 2015, there are the Concilio Superior and seven Concilios Locales.

No. 1  Antonito
No. 7  Denver
No. 15 Placitas in El Rito Valley
No. 18 Ranchos de Taos
No. 19 Alamosa
No. 31 Chama
No. 57 Nambé
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Concilios in Colorado 1950-1960</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. 1</td>
<td>Antonito</td>
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<td>Capulin</td>
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<td>La Isla</td>
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<td>Los Sauces/Salida</td>
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<td>No. 7</td>
<td>Denver</td>
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<td>Del Norte</td>
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<td>Los Valdez</td>
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<td>La Jara</td>
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<td>No. 11</td>
<td>Fort Garland</td>
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<td>No. 12</td>
<td>Del Norte, Nos. 8, 30</td>
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<td>No. 15</td>
<td>Center,</td>
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<td>No. 16</td>
<td>La Garita</td>
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<td>No. 17</td>
<td>Lobatos</td>
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<td>Oak View</td>
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<td>Ignacio</td>
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<td>Pagosa Junction</td>
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<td>San Pablo</td>
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<td>Los Pinos/Valle</td>
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<td>Chama</td>
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<td>Fort Collins</td>
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<td>Pagosa Springs</td>
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<td>García</td>
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<td>Brighton</td>
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<td>No. 62</td>
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<td>New Mexico</td>
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<td>No. 4 Rodarte</td>
<td>No. 23 Lumberton</td>
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<td>No. 9 La Madera/Vallecitos</td>
<td>No. 24 No Agua/Tres Piedras</td>
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<td>No. 10 San Miguel</td>
<td>No. 25 Chama</td>
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<td>No. 11 Las Tusas</td>
<td>No. 26 Espanola</td>
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<td>No. 12 Costilla</td>
<td>No. 29 Los Pinos</td>
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<td>No. 13 Ojo Caliente</td>
<td>No. 30 Chamita, Dawson</td>
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<td>No. 14 El Rito</td>
<td>No. 30 Raton and</td>
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<td>No. 15 Placitas</td>
<td>No. 32 Arroyo Hondo</td>
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<td>No. 18 Ranchos de Taos</td>
<td>No. 33 Las Cruces</td>
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<td>No. 20 Ranchos de Taos</td>
<td>No. 34 Chamita</td>
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<td>No. 21 Espanola Valley (Espanola, Alcalde, Velarde, Lyden)</td>
<td>No. 37 Rosa</td>
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<td>No. 38 Tierra Amarilla</td>
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<td>No. 39 Alcalde</td>
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<td>No. 59 Clearfield</td>
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<td>No. 61 Ogden</td>
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<td>No. 63 Salt Lake City</td>
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Chama
Concilio #31

Nambé
Concilio #57

Source: Daniel Salazar
El Cerro Concilio #43

Costilla Concilio #12

El Rito Concilio #14

La Garita Concilio #16

Source: Daniel Salazar
Ojo Caliente Concilio # 13
Source: Daniel Salazar
Meeting place of SPMDTU Concilio #7, Denver, Colorado
1930 Constitution and Rules based on 1909 Reglas Mutuas

1942 Constitution and Rules
1952 Constitution and Rules  
Ritualistic Code, English edition 1980
Initiation of women at 2008 convention
Source: Daniel Salazar

Banners of the Denver and Superior Councils
Source: Daniel Salazar
Banners of Concilio #7 Denver and Concilio Superior
Source: José A. Rivera
Name tag, ceremonial and funeral devisas of Dr. Esquibel
Hat, *devisas* and pins of the SPMDDTU

Source: Manuel Salazar
Cap from Concilio #7 Denver, Colorado
Source José A. Rivera
Rings produced by SMPDTU member

Source: Center for Southwest Research, Universities Libraries, University of New Mexico
1913 Insurance Certificate for Remigio Salazar
Source: Manuel Salazar
Remigio Salazar SPMDTU Member & wife Emerenciana Salazar
Source Antonio Esquibel
Examples of Insurance Certificates, Source: Antonio Esquibel
Medical exam for 1967 SPMDTU Application

Source: Antonio Esquibel
Gravestone of Honorable Celedonio Mondragón, Conejos Cemetery, Conejos, Colorado

Source: Daniel Salazar
Denver Concilio No. 7 members delivering Christmas gifts to 2013 flood victims Greeley, Colorado.

Source: Antonio Esquibel
S.P.M.D.T.U. awards scholarships

ANTONITO—The Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos S.P.M.D.T.U. (Society for the Mutual Protection of United Workers) Denver Concilio No. 7, has awarded academic scholarships to three Antonito High School students. The scholarships are in the amount of $1,000 each and are for the 2014-2015 Academic Year to the college of the student’s choice. The scholarships will be presented at Graduation Exercises on Friday, May 23.

The three students, the amounts of their awards and the universities they will be attending are: Miranda Sandoval, $1,000 S.P.M.D.T.U. Scholarship attending Adams State University; Marivel Knecht-Salas, $1,000 S.P.M.D.T.U. Scholarship attending University of Arizona; and Maira Rodriguez, $1,000 S.P.M.D.T.U. Scholarship attending Adams State University.

The Denver Chapter, Concilio No. 7, provides 10 academy scholarships per year. The three students from Antonito were selected on academic achievements, personal qualities and strengths, a personal essay, letters of recommendation, financial need, Colorado resident and of Hispanic decent.

The Society of Mutual Protection of United Workers was founded in 1900 by Celestino Montesquín, along with a core group of supporters in Antonito. The S.P.M.D.T.U. began as an organization that sought, through non-violent actions, to combat the exploitation of Hispanic workers by land owners, mine owners and the railroads.

The S.P.M.D.T.U. is the oldest surviving Hispanic organization in the United States. The S.P.M.D.T.U. meeting hall located on the west side of Antonito’s main street is listed on the State Register of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places in the areas of Ethnic Heritage and Social History.

It is member run, and comprised of a diverse group of men and women who conduct monthly meetings and functions, in order to further the organization’s vision. They are bound together by the common interest in enriching Hispanic communities and families, with fund raising efforts aimed at providing and enhancing community services.

Antonito SPMDTU scholarship recipients are from left Marivel Knecht-Salas, Miranda Sandoval and Maira Rodriguez.
SPMDTU Denver Concilio No. 7 President Ray Garcia, Sr. and Vice President Antonio Esquibel at Genealogy Society of Hispanic America National Conference, Denver, CO, June 6-8, 2014
Source: Antonio Esquibel
Figure 27. Concilio Superior meeting hall main-floor plan as depicted by Arnold Valdez in the nomination report for the placement of this building on the National Register of Historic Places, U.S. National Park Service, certified by the State Historic Preservation Office of Colorado March 2001.

Source: *La Sociedad* p. 63.
Interior of SPMDTU Hall, Source Antonio Esquibel
Mural on backstage wall of the SPMDTU Hall, Source: Antonio Esquibel
The SPMDTU meeting hall is listed in the State Register of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places in the areas of Ethnic Heritage and Social History.
2014 FOCUS COMMITTEE SURVEY

INFORME DE LOS MIEMBROS DE
LA SOCIEDAD PROTECCIÓN MUTUA DE TRABAJADORES
UNIDOS (SPMDTU) DE ANTONITO, DENVER, ALAMOSA,
CHAMA Y NAMBE

Preparado por
Hermano Antonio Esquibel, Ph.D.
Concilio No. 7, Miembro del Comité de Foco
Denver, Colorado
el 4 de julio de 2014
Durante la reunión de marzo de 2014 del Concilio Superior, el Presidente Superior, Frank Lopez, propuso que se establecerá un Comité de Foco con los siguientes objetivos:

Estará encargado de evaluar las funciones actuales del Concilio Superior y los Concilios Locales y formular recomendaciones.

"Sondear" (poll) a los miembros de sus respectivos concilios.

Desarrollar una "DECLARACIÓN DE PROPÓSITO" ("Purpose Statement").

Presentar los resultados a la Convención del SPMDTU en Taos, NM el sábado 13 de septiembre de 2014.
2014 Focus Committee Members

Felix R. Lopez,
Concilio No. 1 Antonito

Robert Martinez,
Concilio No. 19 Alamosa

Jerry Romero,
Concilio No. 57 Nambé, Chair

Baudilillo Baca,
Concilio No. 57 Nambé

Anselmo Valerio,
Concilio No. 18 Ranchos De Taos

Manuel Salazar,
Concilio No. 7 Denver

Richard Olivas y Cordova,
Concilio No. 31 Chama

Antonio Esquibel,
Concilio No. 7 Denver
Para realizar su trabajo los miembros del Comité de Foco decidieron desarrollar y administrar un cuestionario a todos los miembros actuales del SPMDTU a fin de conseguir sus opiniones e ideas relacionadas con los cargos del comité.
The questionnaire consisted of nine open item questions which asked members their opinions related to the purposes of the Concilio Superior and the Concilios Locales and their opinions on why members had left the organization and how it could attract new members.

It also contained eight demographic questions about the member’s ancestors who had been SPMDTU members, age, year they joined the SPMDTU, birthplace, ethnic identification, knowledge of the SPMDTU, Spanish language ability, educational level, and income.
These recommendations center around seven general themes:

1. The need for *concilios locales* and the *Concilio Superior* to do active recruitment for new members,
2. The need to explore new benefits for members.
3. The need for *concilios locales* to conduct more meaningful meetings.
4. The *Concilio Superior* needs to become more engaged with the *concilios locales*.
5. The need for both the *Concilio Superior* and the *concilios locales* to become more involved in their local communities, especially the Hispanic organizations.
6. The need to re-examine SPMDTU’s mission and
7. The need to develop programs to help preserve the Hispanic culture and Spanish language as they pertain to the SPMDTU.
La Sociedad Protección Mutual de Trabajadores Unidos está dedicada a servir a las comunidades en las que reside. Este servicio a la comunidad se lleva a cabo, centrándose en conservar la cultura hispana, conservar la organización, en un compromiso social y la educación.

La Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos is dedicated to serving the communities in which it resides. This service to community is accomplished by focusing on Cultural Preservation, Organizational Preservation, Community Engagement, and Education.
Participant Goals for this Session

1. Participants will describe when, where and who founded the *La Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos* (SPMDTU).

2. Participants will list the original goals of the SPMDTU.

3. Participants will be able to identify the location of the SPMDTU building and describe the activities that took place there.

4. Participants will learn and sing the *Hymno Oficial* of the SPMDTU.
Himno Oficial Del SPMDTU

Hispano-americanos
Al son de la libertad
Estrechémonos las manos,
Estrechémonos las manos,
Con amor y caridad
Estrechémonos las manos,

CORO
¡Juremos ser LIBRES
Y viva la UNION!
¡Qué viva la LIGA
DE MUTUA PROTECCIÓN!
Defendemos su bandera
Con nuestras fuerzas y unión
Defendemos su bandera

Defender nuestros derechos
Nuestra patria y nuestro honor
Y sostener nuestros hechos
Y sostener nuestros hechos
Con firmeza y con valor
Y sostener nuestros hechos

CHORUS
Let us pledge to be FREE
And long live the UNION!
Long live the LEAGUE
OF MUTUAL PROTECTION!
We defend her flag
With all our Strength and Unity
We defend her flag

We defend our rights
Our country and honor
And sustain our deeds
And sustain our deeds
With firmness and valor
And sustain our deeds

CORO
El fin