

## **MEXICO BECOMES A STATE OF THE NHSRA**



[Photo] NHSRA Executive Director, James Higginbotham welcomes Mexico National Director, Guillermo "Memo" Herrera aboard the National High School Rodeo Association in Jackson Hole, WY during the 2018 Mid-Winter Meeting.

**DENVER, Colo.** (January 31, 2018) – The National High School Rodeo Association has expanded its membership into Mexico. After several months of communication with the Mexican Rodeo Federation, NHSRA Executive Director James Higginbotham and President of the Mexican Rodeo Federation Guillermo "Memo" Herrera signed an agreement to organize the Mexican High School Rodeo Association governed by the National High School Rodeo Association [NHSRA]. Mexico officially became a member on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.

President Guillermo Herrera visited the 2018 NHSRA Mid-Winter Meeting to discuss rules, by-laws and events. Herrera will serve as the Mexico National Director. He explains there are already youth levels of rodeo competition within the Mexican Rodeo Federation "so we are going to implement and improve the system we have now." In the first year, the Mexican High School Rodeo Association plans to offer 5-7 events for the High School Division members and 4-6 events for the members in the Junior High Division and grow from there.

"This is the best news for the MRF [Mexican Rodeo Federation] since signing on with the PRCA," Herrera said "I'm very glad to be part of this large youth association it's a great opportunity for the Mexican cowboys and cowgirls as well as for the Federation to increase the number of memberships and increase the level of competition."

The vision of the Mexican High School Rodeo Association is to provide the youth with a good foundation for both the youth and sport of rodeo. Herrera comments, "I am sure the Mexican High School Rodeo Association is going to provide us with better contestants for the future of rodeo, contestants with more fair-play competition, and with more respect and values to the sport."

Mexico makes for the fourth country after the United States, Canada and Australia to become a High School Rodeo Association governed by the National High School Rodeo Association. Herrera states "I think international events always motivates the professionalism within the sport."

NHSRA Executive Director James Higginbotham looks forward to having Mexico aboard the NHSRA, "After four months of discussion with The Mexico Delegation, we at The National High School Rodeo Association are extremely excited they have officially become a member. We look forward to welcoming them to our 2018 National Finals Rodeos. Through much conversation with Guillermo Herrera, Mexico National Director, we are confident Mexico will be a great addition to our association and look forward to great competition with their members".

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Since its inception in 1949, the NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL RODEO ASSOCIATION has existed first and foremost to promote and support education and to develop the essential attributes of leadership, dedication, commitment and responsibility in high school and junior high students from the United States, Canada, Australia and Mexico. While preserving the western heritage, the NHSRA teaches its student members to maintain the highest regard for each other and their livestock. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.NHSRA.com">www.NHSRA.com</a>.

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