

Championing a Global Vision of the Foundation

RHF BOARD OFFICER JOAO MARCOS



"Wherever you live and play on the globe, I invite you to participate." Some years ago, I had the honor of receiving an invitation to serve on the Board of Directors of the Reining Horse Foundation. I had no idea how rewarding it would be to participate in a team so committed to helping a sport as the members of this organization. They are well guided by my friend Mark Blake, who serves as board president.

The Foundation has for many years provided excellent service to the sport of reining in the northern hemisphere. I believe the time has arrived to expand — in a more planned format — the globalization of the Foundation's work, and that is in fact what is already happening.

The globalization in South America started two years ago with Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay with little investment and the great support of NRHA Professionals and local reining horse associations. These affiliates established international Rookie and Non Pro Days, as an experiment for a future global expansion. These build on the success of the Foundation's Rookie Days and its current Reining Boot Camps to attract and nurture beginning reiners.

The idea is to develop this work throughout the coming years in other countries, always aiming to encourage the growth of the sport, with a focus on youth, and increase awareness of the Reining Horse Foundation.

NRHA, in which I also have the honor to participate as a Board member, has in recent years executed a globalization project that has been greatly successful in terms of growing the Association. Now, the Foundation also has great opportunities to showcase its beautiful work.

Another point of real importance, are the core projects that are the priority of the RHF. These include the Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund, scholarships and the NRHA Hall of Fame.

It is an effort to undertake and promote joint objectives and strengths. Together, RHF, NRHA and the international reining associations can extend their work and make a difference. Wherever you live and play on the globe, I invite you to participate.

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