



### The History of Nuevo León

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Seal of Nuevo León

Situated on the border between Mexico and the United States, Nuevo León is famous for its adventure sports including rock climbing and rappelling but most of the state's revenue comes from its ironwork, steelwork and smelting plants. Monterrey, the capital of Nuevo León and the third most-populated metropolitan area in the country, has the highest gross domestic product of all metropolitan areas in Mexico. The southern part of the state remains poor largely due to climatic and geographic conditions that make the area unsuitable for agriculture and livestock.

#### Early History

Anthropological and archeological evidence suggests that early nomad hunters and gatherers arrived in the area now known as Nuevo Leon as early as 8900 B.C. The state's primary source of pre-Hispanic relics near Mina has yielded over 1,000 engraved stones dating from 1350 to 650 B.C. Evidence suggests that as many as 250 indigenous tribes may have dwelled near Monterrey, Cadereyta and Cerralvo, including the Amapoalas, Gualiches and Gualeguas. When the Spaniards arrived in the early 16th century, Nuevo León was devoid of large settlements. Most of the natives were still nomadic and traversed the unfriendly Nuevo León terrain on their way to other regions.

#### Middle History

The first Spanish conquistadors to visit present-day Nuevo León were Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca around 1535 and Andrés de Olmos a decade later. Alberto del Canto entered the area in 1575 and discovered a valley that he named Extremadura; the city of Monterrey was later built there. Further north, de Olmos also found mineral deposits at San Gregorio.

In the early 1600s, Spanish Governor Diego de Montemayor led a new colonization effort in the area. He was joined by Franciscan priests who began converting the indigenous population to Catholicism. By the late 17th century, colonization efforts had been mostly abandoned.

A brief mining surge in the mid-1700s resulted in the discovery of gold and silver in the area. These deposits were rapidly exhausted, and interest and activity diminished quickly. Taking advantage of large land entitlements given to the church, Catholic convents and seminaries were built in the region during the late 1700s.

#### Recent History

In 1811, the independence movement caught on briefly in Nuevo León. After the execution of the popular and powerful priest and revolutionary Miguel de Hidalgo y Costilla, rebellions in the area were brought to a halt. Forces loyal to Spain regained control of the entire region, and it wasn't until after the Plan of Iguala in 1821 that

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Nuevo León became a province of independent Mexico. In 1824, it became a federal state and a new constitution was adopted.

The rest of the 19th century was marred by political instability and fighting. Conflicts between centralists and federalists and a civil war between liberals and conservatives prevented economic development of the region. The continuous fighting caused social order to deteriorate in Monterrey and other towns. After Mexico ceded its northern territories, including Texas, to the United States, a liberal regime was established that helped bring about much-needed economic development. However, low population density remained a problem for Nuevo León. Towards the end of the 19th century, a new railroad between Mexico City and Monterrey helped promote industrialization.

Nuevo León was an early supporter of the Mexican Revolution. In 1910, revolutionist and presidential candidate Francisco Indalecio Madero were arrested in Monterrey after being accused of fraud by incumbent president Porfirio Díaz. The ensuing protests grew into a revolution later that year, and the revolutionaries eventually gained control of Nuevo León. The state participated in the writing and promulgation of the Mexican Constitution of 1917. After the end of the revolution, Nuevo León became a cattle ranching state, and Monterrey solidified its position as the most important industrial and financial center in northern Mexico.

### **Nuevo León Today**

Nuevo León ranks above all Latin American countries in the Human Development Index, a comparative measure of life expectancy, literacy, education and standard of living developed by the United Nations. The state is the third most industrialized in Mexico, and most residents enjoy a comfortable standard of living. One of its municipalities, San Pedro Garza García, has the second highest per capita income in Mexico.

The industrial structure of the state includes oil refining and heavy and light manufacturing. Nuevo León is one of Mexico's leading producers of iron, steel and chemicals, and Monterrey is home to many large manufacturing companies: Cemex (cement), Bimbo (bakery and pastry), Maseca (food and grains), Banorte (a Mexican-owned bank), Alestra (telecommunications), Vitro (glass), Hylsa (aluminum), FEMSA (Coca-Cola) and Cervecería Cuauhtémoc-Moctezuma (brewers of five beer brands). Nuevo León also has a rich agricultural core, among other things that are raised are cattle and oranges. Manufacturing represents the largest source of the state's economy at 27 percent. Service-based companies represent 22 percent of the economy, followed by trade at 19 percent, finance and insurance at 15 percent, transportation and communication at 11 percent, construction at 3 percent, agriculture and livestock at 2 percent and mining at 1 percent.

Nuevo León is not only an industrial leader, it also promotes culture and supports the arts. From September through December 2007, Monterrey hosted the United Nation's Universal Forum of Cultures. Among the state's museums are the Marco (contemporary art), the Mexican History Museum and the Glass Museum.

Every year, thousands of students from all over the country pour into the capital city to study at the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education, the University of Monterrey and the Autonomous University of Nuevo León.

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### **Facts & Figures**

**Capital:** Monterrey

**Major Cities (population):** Monterrey (1,133,814)  
Guadalupe (691,931) San Nicolás de los Garza (476,761)  
Apodaca (418,784) General Escobedo (299,364)

**Size/Area:** 24,792 square miles

**Population:** 4,199,292 (2005 Census)

**Year of Statehood:** 1824



The Metropolitan Cathedral of Our Lady of Monterrey was built between 1705 and 1791 and declared a Cathedral in 1777, when Pope Pius VI created the Diocese of Linares.

## Presidents Message



Bruce Troe

Hello All of You Friends of Taxco!

Thanks to all who were able to come to the Winter Festival at the Van Nuys/Reseda Elks Lodge. So much work done by members Jo and Bobbie transformed the Lodge into a beautiful Winter Wonderland! The entertainment by the Elks 2790 Band kept the Taxco members and Guests entertained and moving. Good Food; Good Drinks, Good Friends of Taxco event!!

I know that many of you are fighting to stay healthy, although we would always welcome you, your health comes first. Take care of yourselves. We will be here for you!

Our Board members are working diligently on the calendar for the next year. Any suggestions you may have are always welcome. We have a very hard-working Board, but we could always use more help. The General Meeting sounds like it will be an exciting event. It will be held at the Canoga/Owensmouth Historical Museum at 1:30 PM on February 9<sup>th</sup>, with a Mardi Gras theme. The best Marti Gras Mask will receive a prize, so I hope you will put a mask together and lets have a wonderful time. Make your reservations now...See you then!

Sincerely,  
Bruce Troe



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## Adult Exchange 2020



We have 4 members ready to travel to Taxco on Friday, June 7-Sunday June 16. They are: Barb and Rush White, Bruce Troe and Lynn Davies.

Would you like to join our group? Just call Barb White at 818-347-2136 and let her know! Get the International Experience by living in the home of a Mexican Family. There is no tourist situation that is quite like this!

AMBASSADOR TIP: Of course we are all polite, courteous and friendly people. No question. But in our Friends of Taxco group we are also Ambassadors. We are dealing with people from another country, with another language and culture. There will always be the possibility of a misunderstanding or a miscommunication. This is why I love our sister city! We have a chance to learn about a different culture and experience living in another country which looks at the world differently than we do. They handle problems differently than we do. There is not just ONE WAY of living day to day – other ways work too. What a beautiful lesson for us to internalize.

As Ambassadors, our job specializes in diplomacy. We should be plain speaking, so that we are understood correctly. As an ambassador we should be polite, courteous, accommodating, interested and kind. We should apologize for any mishap or miscommunication to smooth out any of our words or actions that were not interpreted the way we meant them to be. What a great experience we have at our disposal. Please consider joining us for a trip to Taxco and/or hosting a guest from Taxco! You will receive an INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE!!



# Sunday, February 9th



1:30 - 3:00 PM

## *Celebrating Marti Gras*

Canoga-Owensmouth Historical Museum  
7248 Owensmouth Avenue

*Lunch - Chicken Provencal - Green Salad - Rolls - King's Cake*

**\$12.00 Per Person**

## *Election and Installation of 2020 Officer Corp*

**\* \* \* Prizes Awarded for the Best Mask \* \* \***

**PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS**

Bobbie Strelow (818) 388-7801 or [bobbiejoann2@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiejoann2@gmail.com)  
Bertha Arvizu (818) 340-6598

### **Calendar of Events 2020**

- February 9      **General Meeting - 1:00 PM - Election & Installation of Officers**  
\$12.00
- February 22    **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch**  
Bobbie Strelow Home - 20939 Lanark St.
- March 14        **Ways and Means Event - 6:00 PM**  
Details Forthcoming
- March 28        **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM**  
Swoger Residence - 7821 Jellico Ave.
- April 18         **Ways and Means Event - 6:00 PM**  
Details Forthcoming



<b>FRIENDS OF TAXCO</b>
contact information
Randy Lewis - Editor
P.O. Box 9070
Canoga Park, CA 91309
(818) 998-0983
<a href="mailto:randy7547@gmail.com">randy7547@gmail.com</a>