

## Proposal to amend Article V Fees and Dues Section 2

The section currently reads

### ***Section 2: Dues Deadline (Current)***

*a. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year. Annual dues shall be payable in advance on the first day of January in each year and will be considered delinquent if not paid by 31 March.*

*b. When an applicant is approved by GSMD during the last **three** months of the year, his/her dues shall be deemed to be paid for the following year.*

The Board of Assistants proposes to change it to read

*a. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year. Annual dues shall be payable in advance on the first day of January in each year and will be considered delinquent if not paid by 31 March.*

*b. When an applicant is approved by GSMD during the last **six** months of the year, his/her dues shall be deemed to be paid for the following year.*

### **Explanation and Rationale:**

When an applicant applies for membership in the California Mayflower Society, we charge an application fee which includes \$75, representing the first year's dues. We notify Plymouth each January the number of ACTIVE members in our Society. This includes all members-in-good-standing, that is all current paid members and Life Members, as of December 31<sup>st</sup>. The issue arises when we try to determine when a new member's dues of \$75 is to be applied.

Under the current bylaw (Article V Section 2b), we only allocate it to upcoming year if the application is approved and the applicant becomes a member of the California Society within in the last three months of the year. The result is that only applicants whose applications are approved after October 1 are considered fully paid for the upcoming year. Applicants approved as late as the end of September receive dues notices virtually as soon as they are approved. They basically get little benefit from their first year's dues payment, which has caused a degree of unhappiness. Since we do not need to make the cutoff so close to when the dues notices go out, we propose to move the cutoff out to six months, rather than three months. In other words, if approved by the Membership, anyone approved from July 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> will be considered paid for the following year.

We recognize that this proposal will have some consequence financially to the Society, in that it would cost us a limited amount of the dues that would have been paid from July 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>, for the newly approved members within that time. We currently do not collect dues from new members now from October 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. However, we see this as a matter of fairness and evenhandedness for those who have just joined the Society.