

**THE SOCIETY OF  
MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS  
IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, INC.**

**BYLAWS**

## BYLAWS

### THE SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

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**THE  
BYLAWS OF THE SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, INC.**

**ARTICLE I  
NAME**

The name of this Society shall be *The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California, Inc.*, hereinafter referred to as the *State Society*.

**ARTICLE II  
OBJECTIVES**

- To perpetuate the memory of the Pilgrim Fathers and Mothers.
- To maintain and defend the principle of civil and religious liberty, as set forth in the Compact of the “Mayflower, For the glory of God, and advancements of the Christian faith and honor of our countrie;”
- To cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American freedom, and to oppose any theories or actions that threaten their continuity.
- To transmit the spirit, the purity of purpose and the steadfastness of will of the Pilgrim Fathers and Mothers and an undiminished heritage of liberty and law, to those who will come after us.
- To promote the interests that are common to all the Member Societies of Mayflower Descendants which can best be served by a state body.

**ARTICLE III  
ORGANIZATION**

**Section 1: Non-Profit Status**

In carrying out the objectives of the Society, the Society and its members shall adhere at all times to the provisions of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and other provisions applicable to the tax-exempt status of non-profit entities.

**Section 2: Members**

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California, Inc., shall consist of the Colony Societies within the State now existing and such other Colony Societies as may from time to time be duly organized under the authority of The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California, Inc., Board of Assistants.

**Section 3: Government**

- a. The Government of the State Society shall be vested in the State Membership consisting of the Officers of the State Society, and all State Society members in good standing who are in attendance at the State Membership Meeting.

- b. **Board of Assistants:** When the State Membership is not in session, the Board of Assistants shall consist of the Officers of the State Society (the Governor; Deputy Governor North; Deputy Governor South; Recording Secretary; Treasurer; Membership Secretary; Historian; Counselor; and Elder); Captain; Surgeon; Colony Governors or Colony Delegates; Honorary Governors; all of whom shall be members in good standing of the State Society.
- c. **Executive committee:** When the Board of Assistants is not in session the Executive Committee shall consist of the following State Officers: Governor; Deputy Governor North; Deputy Governor South; Recording Secretary; Treasurer; Historian; Membership Secretary; Counselor; and Elder elected by the State Society membership. The Executive Committee may be called to a special meeting for a specific purpose requiring timely action and shall have the power to take action on any matters that may arise, which, in the judgment of the State Governor should be acted upon before the next meeting of the Board of Assistants.
- d. Executive Committee meetings may be conducted by telephone or through other electronic means.
- e. All legislative actions of the Executive Committee must be ratified at the next meeting of the Board of Assistants.
- f. **State Society Officers:** The Officers of the State Society shall be a Governor; Deputy Governor North; Deputy Governor South; Recording Secretary; Treasurer; Membership Secretary; Historian; Counselor; and Elder.
- g. **Term Limits:** State officers shall be elected for a term of 2 (two) years or until their successors are elected. A majority of those in attendance at the State Membership Meeting shall elect. The term of office shall begin at the close of the State Membership Meeting in an odd year when elections have been held. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms unless such candidate has been authorized by the Board of Assistants. The term of any elected Officer is subject to early termination for cause, for failure to attend Society meetings, or for continuing failure to carry out his or her duties. Unexcused absence from three consecutive meetings shall be deemed a resignation.
- h. **General Authority:** The State Society Governor shall have authority in all State Society questions, and in such matters as may be referred to him/her by the Colonies.
- i. **Appointments:** The State Governor shall make all appointments (Article VII, Section 3 below). The following appointed positions shall be Captain; Librarian; Surgeon; Parliamentarian and/or Advisor. All other positions and committees (Article VIII) shall be by appointment of the State Governor except the Nominating Committee. (see Article VI, Section 1, a, b, c)

## **ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1: Qualifications**

All persons over eighteen years of age who descend from a passenger on the *Mayflower*, on the voyage which terminated at Plymouth, New England, in December 1620, shall be eligible for membership; and all persons, so descended, who are younger than eighteen years of age, shall be eligible for Junior Membership pursuant to Article IV; provided however:

a. that no person shall be eligible for membership in The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California, Inc., regular or junior, who is pledged to or advocates, the overthrow, by force or violence, of the Government of the United States, or that of any State or Territory; or who has been found guilty of other treasonable practices; or who is not of good moral character; and this Society shall have the right to expel from its membership any person for any of these causes; and any action arising under this provision

i. shall be undertaken by the State Society and provided further.

ii. that no one may become a member of this Society unless personally acceptable to it.

### **Section 2: Preliminary Application**

Every application for membership in this State Society shall be made on a preliminary application and lineage review form provided by this Society. Such application shall bear the autograph signature of the candidate.

### **Section 3: Closing an Application**

The State Historian has the discretion to close an application if the line is unable to be proven, if the applicant has not responded to a request for more documentation, or if there has been no communication between the State Historian and the applicant in over a year.

### **Section 4: Lineage Approved by State Historian**

No person shall be a member of this State Society until his or her line of descent has been approved by the Historian General. If a difference of opinion exists between the applicant and the Historian General as to the eligibility of an applicant for membership, such applicant may make an appeal to the Appeals Committee of the General Society, and the decision of the Appeals Committee shall be final. All applicants must comply with the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (Constitution and Bylaws of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Article IV, Membership, Section 4).

### **Section 5: Effective Date of Membership**

An applicant becomes a member of this Member Society when the General Society of Mayflower Descendants approves the application.

## **Section 6: Dual Membership**

- a. Any member may hold membership in more than one Member Society, and if so, shall be eligible to represent such Member Society as a delegate to the General Congress, and the State Membership Meetings.
- b. Any member holding membership in more than one Member Society shall be eligible to hold any elected office within this State Society, providing the member is within good standing of this State Society.
- c. A member may choose to belong to more than one colony; however, that member may serve as Colony Governor, Deputy or Assistant Colony Governor, or Colony Delegate of only one Colony at a time.

## **Section 7: Transfer and Re-instatement of Membership**

A member of this State Society may transfer to another Member Society upon written application of such member to the Member Society to which transfer is desired and upon meeting all requirements of the General Society. (Constitution and Bylaws of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Article IV, Section 7). A member who was previously dropped for nonpayment of dues, may be re-instated by the payment of the current year dues.

## **Section 8: Junior Membership**

- a. The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California may establish Junior Membership for juniors of any age up to eighteen (18) years, which memberships may continue until the age of twenty-five (25) years, in accordance with the General Society. (Constitution and Bylaws of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Article IV, Section 8)
- b. Any member in good standing in this State Society may make application to this State Society for Junior Membership on behalf of any person under eighteen years of age, who has a prime facie proven lineage, this term meaning that the junior whose application is submitted is linearly related to a present or past member of the General Society by blood through the line through which such member was approved for the General Society. Application for Junior Membership shall be submitted on the form provided by this State Society for that purpose and be accompanied by payment of the entrance fee.
- c. Members shall comply with all applicable laws pertaining to the privacy rights of minor children, including but not limited to (i) the privacy of a child's likeness in any photographs, digital images, or social media posts; and (ii) a child's personal email address, home address or similar contact information. Members shall use best efforts to obtain consent of the child's parent(s) or legal guardian in any situation in which a child's right to privacy is or may be involved. A violation of this provision may subject the Member to appropriate discipline under Article IV Section 7.

### **Section 9: Prohibited Conduct of Members**

Any member, for cause or conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Society, for any material violation of these Bylaws, or for violation of any conduct rules adopted by the General Society or the State Society, may be suspended, expelled, or otherwise sanctioned by the Society by a two-thirds vote of the Society members attending any meeting to approve such sanctions. Prior to any vote to sanction a member, the voting members shall be provided reasonable information supporting the motion to impose sanctions. The Society shall use reasonable efforts to safeguard private information of the individual in presenting the facts supporting the imposition of sanctions, and the individual shall likewise use reasonable efforts to safeguard the private information of any member involved in the matter for which sanctions are sought. A member shall be given reasonable notice of any motion to sanction the member and shall be entitled to be heard prior to the imposition of any sanction. The member shall not be entitled to a trial and shall not be entitled to demand the testimony of witnesses or the production of documents. The member may be represented by counsel only if such counsel is also a member of this Society and admitted to practice law in the State of California. A motion to sanction a member shall not be governed by *Roberts Rules of Order* to the extent such *Rules* conflict with this section.

## **ARTICLE V FEES AND DUES**

### **Section 1: Entrance Fee**

The Board of Assistants shall determine the entrance fee *for both initial and supplemental applications*.

### **Section 2: Dues Deadline**

- a. The fiscal year shall be the calendar year. Annual dues shall be payable in advance due on the first day of October of the previous year and will be considered delinquent if not paid by 30 December of the previous year.
- b. Effective July 1, 2022, when an applicant is approved by the GSMD during the last six months of the year, his/her dues shall be deemed to be paid for the following year.

### **Section 3: Annual Dues**

The annual dues shall be determined by a majority vote of the Board of Assistants.

### **Section 4: Delinquent Dues**

When a member has not paid the annual dues by 30 December of the calendar year in which the payment was due, he/she shall be dropped from the rolls of this Member Society and from the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

A member may be reinstated pursuant to the procedure set out in the Standing Rules, including payment of the most recent year of unpaid dues.

### **Section 5: Life Membership**



a. Life Membership is not available in this Society after these revisions to the Bylaws are adopted.

b. Existing Life Members are exempt from payment of annual dues.

c. A current member who is unable to pay the annual dues, may make application to the Board of Assistants to become exempt from paying annual dues, provided that member is at least 85 years old and has been a dues paying member for at least 20 years.

## **ARTICLE VI NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

### **Section 1: Nominating Committee**

a. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate a candidate, whose consent to serve has been obtained, for each office to be filled: Governor; Deputy Governor North; Deputy Governor South; Recording Secretary; Treasurer; Historian; Membership Secretary; Counselor; and Elder.

b. The Nominating Committee will consist of 3 (three) members in good standing of the State Society.

c. On every even year at the October Board of Assistants Meeting, the election of the Nominating Committee will be conducted.

d. The committee will be elected by a majority of the votes of members attending the meeting. At least one member of the Board of Assistants shall be included on the Nominating Committee.

e. Any person who plans to or has expressed interest in seeking nomination to serve as Governor or Assistant Governor North or South may not be elected to the Nominating Committee.

f. When the Governor currently serving is from Southern California, his or her immediate successor as Governor shall be nominated from Northern California; likewise, when the Governor currently serving is from Northern California, his or her immediate successor as Governor shall be nominated from Southern California. As used herein the name "Southern California," shall mean that portion of California that lies south of the northern boundary lines of San Luis Obispo, and San Bernardino Counties, and the southern boundary line of Kern County, and the name "Northern California," shall mean the portion of California that lies north of the boundary lines of San Luis Obispo, and San Bernardino Counties, and the south boundary line of Kern County.

g. In as far as practicable, the Nominating Committee should consist of members from both "Southern California," and "Northern California."

- h. At the March Board of Assistants Meeting preceding the Membership Meeting, the Nominating Committee shall report on those nominated to serve as Officers.

## **Section 2: Elections**

- a. The election of all State Officers will be conducted at the State Membership meeting every odd year.
- b. A ballot listing the office with the name of the candidate/s with space wherein members can write in the name of any other member in good standing will be available at the Membership Meeting in an election year.
- c. The Governor will call for nominations from the floor for each position. Once all nominations have been conducted, the Governor will announce the close of nominations and ballots may be cast.
- d. In the event a candidate is running unopposed in any office, a motion may be made from the floor to conduct a voice vote.
- e. Candidates will be elected for a two (2) year term by majority vote of the membership present at the State Membership Meeting. The election becomes final when the State Governor announces the results of the election.
- f. The two (2) year term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which the newly elected officers have been elected.
- g. The State Officers shall serve until the next State Membership Meeting where elections are held. The State Governor will not serve two consecutive terms without the unanimous vote of the State Membership.

## **ARTICLE VII OFFICERS**

**Section 1:** The officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws, by the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, by parliamentary authority, State Governor, and by such other duties as shall be ordered by the State Society.

- a. The Governor, two Deputy Governors, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Membership Secretary, Counselor, and Elder shall be elected to serve a 2 (two) year term, and will serve on the Executive Committee.
- b. The Board of Assistants shall consist of the Officers of the State Society (the Governor; Deputy Governor North; Deputy Governor South; Recording Secretary; Treasurer; Historian; Membership Secretary; Counselor, and Elder); Captain; Surgeon; Colony

Governors and Colony Delegate); all of whom shall be members in good standing of this State Society.

- c. Honorary Governors are elected for life by the Board of Assistants and will serve on the Board of Assistants as a voting member for life.

**Section 2: Officer Insignia**

- a. The Governor's Medal, and the Governor's Gavel, being the property of the State Society, shall be in the possession of the Governor during his/her term of office.
- b. The two Deputy Governor's Pins and Medals, being the property of the State Society, shall be in the possession of the two Deputy Governors during their term of office.
- c. Upon retiring, the Governor shall be presented with the Past Governor's Pin to be ordered by the Treasurer in advance of the State Membership Meeting.

**Section 3: The Governor shall:**

- a. Preside at all meetings of this State Society, Board of Assistants, and the Executive Committee, and shall have general supervision of the affairs of this State Society.
- b. Be the chief executive officer of this State Society and shall have the general responsibilities, powers, and duties of management usually vested in the Chief Executive Officer of a corporation.
- c. Appoint all committees and committee chairs except the nominating committee.
- d. Be ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee.
- e. Transmit the State Society's Annual Report to the Secretary General not later than February 1<sup>st</sup>, including the number of members and any matters of interest in the State Society's history; also making any suggestions deemed profitable for the General Society to consider.
- f. During his or her term of office as Governor of this State Society, shall be the nominee to the General Society for the office of Assistant General for California.
- g. Appoint an Advisor and/or Parliamentarian.

**Section 4: The Deputy Governors North and South shall perform:**

- a. Duties and responsibilities of the State Governor in his/her absence or inability to serve.
- b. All other duties listed under the Procedure Manual and at the request of the State Society Governor.

**Section 5: The Recording Secretary shall:**

- a. Record the minutes of all State Membership, Executive Committee, and Board of Assistants meetings.
- b. Be custodian of all records.
- c. Be custodian of the State Society seal.
- d. Send all State Society meeting notices for distribution via State Editors or electronically.
- e. Perform all other duties listed under the Procedure Manual and at the request of the State Society Governor.

**Section 6: The Treasurer shall:**

- a. Have charge of all funds of this State Society and keep its accounts under the supervision of the Board of Assistants.
- b. Be bonded or insured at the expense of the State Society.
- c. In the fall of each year, distribute to each annual member a statement of dues payable by January 1.
- d. Make payment to the Deputy Governor General and the Assistant General for attending meetings of the General Society and/or the General Society Triennial meeting in Plymouth, an amount determined by the Board of Assistants to defray travel costs.
- e. Work with State Membership Secretary and the Colony Membership Chairs.
- f. Order the Past Governor's Pin in advance of the State Membership Meeting.
- g. Provide at the request of the Board of Assistants, the financial records of the Society to be reviewed or audited by an internal Audit Committee or an external "Certified Public Accountant". In such case, the Treasurer will cooperate with the committee or auditor.
- h. Distribute a copy of the Audit Committee's report or the auditor's report to the Board of Assistants within 15 days of receipt, if a review or audit was conducted.
- i. Report as may be directed by the Board of Assistants, at the State Membership Meeting and Board of Assistants meetings and at other times as may be requested.

- j. Perform all other duties listed under the Procedure Manual and at the request of the Governor.
- k. Shall prepare an annual operating budget to be presented to the BOA for approval no later than the first BOA meeting of the fiscal year.

**Section 7: The Historian shall:**

- a. Be the official genealogist of this State Society, and shall examine, approve or reject applications.
- b. Receive all payments from applicants to be delivered to the Treasurer.
- c. Have custody of all such papers and correspondence, which shall be subject at all times reasonably convenient, to inspection by the Executive Board, or any committee appointed for that purpose.
- d. Persons may be appointed by the Board of Assistants as Assistant Historians, to be under the supervision of the Historian. Assistant Historians may be compensated for their genealogical skills at a rate determined by the Board.
- e. Work with State Membership Secretary and Colony Membership Chairs, who shall report the status of all Colony applications upon request to the State Historian.
- f. Send new membership certificates to all new members.

**Section 8: The Membership Secretary shall:**

- a. Maintain Membership files of the Society, updating and verifying address changes and other information.
- b. Notify the Secretary General of all address changes not emanating from that office.
- c. Notify the Colony Governor or designated colony liaison of all address changes not emanating from the Colony.
- d. Render a detailed report of the State Society membership on the first day of January of each year to the General Society as instructed by the Secretary General.
- e. Create other reports as the Governor or the Board of Assistants may prescribe.
- f. Work closely with State Treasurer and Colony Membership Chairs to ascertain correct membership status.

**Section 9: The Counselor shall:**

Advise the Governor and the Board of Assistants on all matters of a legal n**Section 10: The**

**Elder shall:**

- a. Officiate when called upon at any meeting of the Society.
- b. Send Birthday cards to 90+ year-old members.
- c. Prepare a necrology of deceased members to be reported at the State Membership Meeting.
- d. Send condolence cards to family of deceased members.
- e. All other duties listed under the Procedure Manual and at the request of the State Society Governor.

**Section 11: The Past State Governors**

- a. May be elected by the Board of Assistants, Honorary Governor for life.
- b. Honorary Governors shall have a vote on the Board of Assistants.
- c. The immediate Past Governor of this State Society shall be the nominee to the General Society for the office of Deputy Governor General for California.

**ARTICLE VIII  
COMMITTEES**

**Section 1: Appointments**

- a. The following positions shall be appointed by the State Governor: Librarian; Investment Chair; Junior Membership Chair; Education Chair; Scholarship Chair; Public Relations Chair; Parliamentarian and/or Advisor, as well as all other positions and committees such as: Data Processing Chair; Webmaster; California Quarterly Editors; Bylaws Chair; Gene Fortine Trophy Chair; Assistant Treasurer, and any other appointments deemed to be necessary by the State Governor, except the Nominating Committee. (see Article VI, Section 1, a, b, c)
- b. The State Governor may appoint other Chair positions as deemed necessary.

**Section 2. New Committees**

- a. New committees must be approved by the Board of Assistants.

## **ARTICLE IX MEETINGS**

### **Section 1: Members (as stated in ARTICLE III, Section 2a)**

The Government of the State Society shall be vested in a State Membership Meeting that shall consist of the Officers of the State Society, the Board of Assistants, and all State Society members in good standing who attend the State Membership Meeting.

### **Section 2: State Membership Meetings**

- a. The State Membership Meeting shall be held during June of every odd year; however, the Executive Committee shall have the power to set the date at some other time during the first six months of the calendar year, whenever it determines that the interests of the Society require it.
- b. Notice of State Membership Meetings at which proposed amendments are to be voted upon shall be mailed to all members, posted on the Members' website, or sent via electronic means as is most convenient and cost effective, along with the text of the amendment, at least 30 (thirty) days prior to the date of the meeting.

### **Section 3: Board of Assistants**

Meetings of the Board of Assistants shall be held between the months of January through October. The Board of Assistants shall meet in the city and on the date scheduled for the biennial June State Membership Meeting every odd year. Insofar as practicable, the meetings of the Board of Assistants shall alternate between Northern California, and Southern California. Voting by the Board of Assistants may be conducted by electronic means. (Article IX, Section 8)

### **Section 4: Special Meetings**

- a. Special meetings of the Board of Assistants or the State Membership shall be held at the written request of five or more members of the Board of Assistants, or at the call of the Governor. A minimum 30 (thirty) day notice, including the business to be transacted at the special meeting, must be given to all members by mail, email or other electronic means.
- b. Special Meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the Governor, or upon written request by 3 (three) members of the Executive Committee. Except in cases of emergency, a 3 (three) day notice shall be given including the business to be transacted at the special meeting.
- c. Emergency Membership Meetings may be called by the Governor and majority vote of the Executive Board for the purpose of conducting emergency business that requires a vote of the membership and cannot wait until the next regularly scheduled Membership Meeting, which occurs every odd year. A minimum of 30 (thirty) day notice, including the business to be transacted at the emergency meeting, must be given to all CA Society Members through direct email and/or through their respective Colonies to join the

meeting via electronic means. Only members in good standing shall be able to vote on any business that comes before the membership at the emergency meeting.

### **Section 5: Voting Eligibility**

- a. All members in good standing of this State Society shall be eligible to vote at the State Membership Meetings.
- b. All members of the Board of Assistants in good standing of this State Society shall be eligible to vote at the Board of Assistants meetings.
- c. All members of the Executive Committee in good standing of the State Society shall be eligible to vote at any Executive Committee meeting.

### **Section 6: Quorum**

At all State Membership Meetings 10 (ten) members in person shall constitute a quorum.

### **Section 7: Electronic Voting**

- a. The Board of Assistants may use email voting or other electronic communications media to conduct business as reasonably necessary between regular meetings. Email or electronic voting must meet the following requirements.
- b. A majority of members should have access to electronic communications.
- c. The State Governor, Deputy Governor, or State Recording Secretary may be the Chair for conducting business between meetings via email voting within their respective areas of authority.
- d. A 72 (seventy-two) hour notice with the date and time of meeting, the issues for consideration, and any motions to be discussed and presented for voting, is required prior to the electronic meeting.
- e. Any discussion/responses must be sent to member's email addresses by "reply all" and retain the original subject line and include the original issue under consideration.
- f. The Chair shall send the email that states the motion requiring a yes or no response, calling for the vote within a specified time period.
- g. Within a timely manner after the previously set deadline for voting, the facilitator shall send an email stating the results of the motion (approved or failed). Votes may not be cast after the pass or fail announcement has been made.
- h. The State Secretary shall maintain a record of email motions and voting results and will include motion results in the minutes of the next Board of Assistants meeting.



## **Section 8: Reporting**

The reports of Officers are usually incident to their administrative duties. Such reports are usually for purposes of information only and must be in writing; they may sometimes contain recommendations calling for action by the members at the meeting. Motions to adopt or implement any recommendation should be made from the floor by a member other than the reporting officer.

The official record of the proceedings of any and all meetings should primarily contain a record of what was done at the meeting; these are called 'minutes' and must be in writing and shall be kept in a substantial book or binder.

## **Section 9: Distribution of Minutes of Meeting**

The Minutes of Meeting should be distributed within a week of the meeting (unless the participants agree on another date) to all meeting participants, those who have sent apologies, and other persons required to take actions or make reports.

**Section 10:** The State Governor is authorized to communicate with the General Society on any matter he or she deems material to the proper functioning of the Society and shall consult with the Executive Committee as appropriate or necessary.

**Section 11:** The Society may create a newsletter, webpage, social media presence or other means to communicate with members and the public, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee; members are prohibited from using or disclosing the private or confidential information of the Society or its members without the express permission of the Executive Committee or the member.

## **ARTICLE X COLONIES**

### **SECTION 1: Organizing new Colonies**

Twenty or more members of this Society, residing in any geographical region of the State of California may associate themselves as a local colony for social purposes, or for other objects that may promote the interests of the Society. Upon receipt by the State Secretary of a written petition to the Board of Assistants for the authorization for such a colony, signed by at least twenty members residing in any geographical region and accompanied by a copy of its proposed bylaws, which in all respects must conform to the provisions of these Bylaws; the Board may, in its discretion, formally authorize such a colony.

### **SECTION 2: Name of Colony**

A local colony shall be known as "The \_\_\_\_ Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California" according to the name of county in which such colony is formed, or some other appropriate name may be adopted as may be approved by the Board of Assistants.

### **SECTION 3: Colony Membership Eligibility**

No member shall be admitted into a local colony until he/she has become a member of the California State Society. Any member who resigns from the California State Society, or was transferred, suspended, or dropped from the rolls, thereupon ceases to be a member of a colony. It shall be the duty of the State Membership Officer to notify promptly each colony of all cases of resignation, transfer, suspension, or dropping from the rolls, that affect membership of such colony.

### **SECTION 4: Colony officers**

- a. Each colony shall have a presiding officer, to be designated as Colony Governor. Other officers shall consist of Deputy or Assistant Governor; Elder; Secretary; Treasurer; State Board of Assistants Delegate and such other officers as the colony may desire.
- b. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms as Colony Governor unless such candidate has been authorized by the State Society Board of Assistants.
- c. Each Colony Governor shall appoint a Membership Chair to work with prospective members, the State Membership Secretary, and State Historian. The Colony Membership Chair will assist new prospective members with collecting appropriate documentation to support their membership applications.
- d. Each Colony Governor may appoint committees and committee chairs as may be desirable.

### **SECTION 5: Colony Bylaws and Rules**

- a. Each colony may adopt its own bylaws, rules, or resolutions, provided the same, in all respects, conform to the constitution, bylaws, and rules of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, these State Society bylaws, and rules and resolutions as the State Society may adopt from time to time.
- b. No entrance fee shall be collected by the Colony.

### **Section 6: Colony Payment**

The Treasurer shall annually pay a sum of money to each colony for each member in good standing registered to it. The Board of Assistants will determine the per-capita amount to be paid. Any Member desiring to be registered in more than one colony shall annually pay the State Treasurer for each additional colony membership the per capita amount fixed by the Board.

### **SECTION 7: Colony Minutes**

The Minutes of all meetings of each colony shall be transmitted to the State Society Recording Secretary within 30 days after draft minutes are adopted.

**SECTION 8:** Colonies may not partake in any projects or events that conflict with the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, this State Society, or other Colonies.

**SECTION 9:** Each colony is a subsidiary or division of the State Society and shall adhere to all provisions of these Bylaws. The authorization of any colony and its power to continue may be suspended or revoked by the Board of Assistants for failure to comply with the provisions of these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XI FACILITIES**

**Section 1:** The State Society shall maintain an office at some convenient location. Records, files, office equipment, books, and supplies shall be kept in good order and in safekeeping under the supervision and direction of the State Governor, as assisted by such persons as may be designated by the Governor.

**Section 2:** The Genealogical Library of the State Society shall be developed and maintained for the purposes of providing the Historian with such accurate documents as may be necessary to verify Mayflower descendant lineages. In addition to the State Historian, all members of the State Society may use the Genealogical Library, as well as non-members who wish to pursue genealogical research.

**Section 3:** Consistent with the stated purposes, the scope of the Genealogical Library shall be defined as the acquisition and maintenance of records, histories, biographies, memorabilia, and such other materials that are relative to those geographical areas, and their peoples, settled by Mayflower passengers, and the descendants of Mayflower passengers. The Library shall, at the direction of the Board of Assistants, distribute Pilgrim-related materials to non-profit organizations such as schools and libraries.

## **ARTICLE XII SEAL**

The seal of the State Society shall contain a representation of a sailing vessel of the seventeenth Century, and around it the name of the State Society, then the words *Plymouth 1620* and *California, 1907*.

## **ARTICLE XIII PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Except as set forth elsewhere in these Bylaws, the latest edition of *Roberts Rules of Order* shall govern the Society in all cases where they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws or the Bylaws of the General Society.

**ARTICLE XIV  
AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS**

**Section 1: Who May Submit an Amendment**

Any member in good standing of this State Society may submit amendments, alterations, and revisions to these Bylaws to the Executive Committee for review and consideration.

**Section 2: Approval Process**

- a. The Executive Committee will submit all amendments, alterations, and/or revisions that they deem appropriate to the Board of Assistants who determine by majority vote, all amendments, alterations, and/or revisions to these bylaws for presentation to the membership, OR the Executive Committee may submit all amendments, alterations, and/or revisions to the Bylaws Committee for their review and consideration, and report back to the Executive Committee.
- b. All proposed amendments, alterations, and/or revisions to these Bylaws must be made available to the membership 30 (thirty) days prior to the State Membership Meeting or Special State Membership Meeting where the membership will vote for or against the proposed amendments, alterations, and/or revisions.
- c. A two-thirds vote of those present at the State Membership Meeting or Special State Membership Meeting shall be required for the adoption of any amendments, alterations, and/or revisions.

**ARTICLE XV  
DISSOLUTION**

**Section 1:** This State Society may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Assistants at any meeting regularly called or by majority vote of the general membership upon written ballot, conducted by the Board of Assistants.

**Section 2:** Upon the dissolution by such formal action of the Board of Assistants or of the membership, or by operation of law or otherwise, the Board of Assistants shall first provide for the payment of all outstanding debts and obligations of the Society, shall deliver all books, records, genealogical papers of the Society into the care, custody or control of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and shall turn over all remaining assets to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants if it then is in existence and is tax exempt under Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code, but if it does not have such tax exempt status, under Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code, some other educational association having tax exempt status.

**Section 3:** No assets of this State Society shall inure to the benefit of any individual member of this State Society, nor shall any such funds, assets, or monies be delivered or divided up amongst said members at the time of dissolution.

*These Bylaws have been amended and revised as follows:*

Adopted January 11, 1908  
Amended April 24, 1915  
Amended May 12, 1917  
Amended May 11, 1918  
Amended April 14, 1920  
Amended December 2, 1920  
Amended April 14, 1921  
Amended May 5, 1923  
Amended May 7, 1927  
Amended May 5, 1928  
Amended August 3, 1929  
Amended September 21, 1929  
Amended May 20, 1944  
Amended June 21, 1940  
Amended June 14, 1952  
Amended May 28, 1967  
Amended May 17, 1975  
Amended May 21, 1977  
Amended May 19, 1984  
Amended May 18, 1991  
Amended May 21, 1994  
Amended May 19/20, 1995  
Amended May 19, 2001  
Revised May 17, 2002 (The bylaws were separated  
for Incorporating)  
Amended June 19, 2009  
Amended June 18, 2011  
Amended June 15, 2013  
Amended June 20, 2015  
Revised June 16, 2018  
Amended June 15, 2019  
Amended February 27, 2021  
Amended June 19, 2021  
Amended December 10, 2022  
Amended June 17, 2023  
Amended Dec 14, 2024