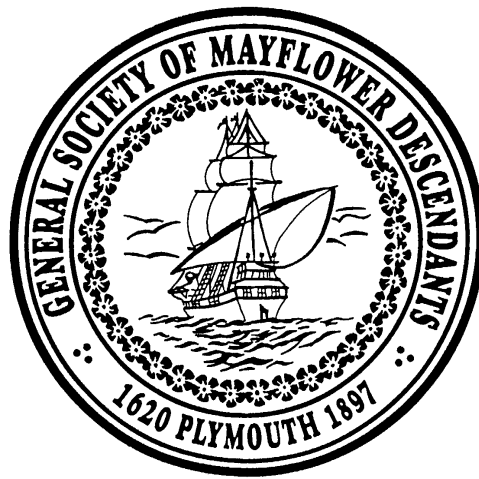


GENERAL SOCIETY
OF
MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS®

CONSTITUTION &
BYLAWS



Incorporated under the laws of the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, February 09, 1923
(Revised from 02.19.1923 to 02.09.1923, per legal counsel, Executive Committee, June 2020)

(Including Amendments through the Special Online General Congress, September 2020)

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Society shall be the
General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

The name of this document may also be called the “Bylaws” or the “Constitution”

ARTICLE II – OBJECTS

The objects of this Society shall be:

To perpetuate to a remote posterity the memory of the Pilgrim Fathers;

To maintain and defend the principle of civil and religious liberty, as set forth in the Compact of the Mayflower, “For the glorie of God, and advancemente 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 steadfastness of will of the Pilgrim Fathers to those who shall come after us, an undiminished heritage of liberty and law;

To promote the interests that are common to all the Member Societies of Mayflower Descendants which can best be served by a federal body;

To secure united effort to discover and publish original matter in regard to the Pilgrims, together with existing data known only to antiquarians;

To authenticate, preserve and mark historical spots made memorable by Pilgrim association.

ARTICLE III – ORGANIZATION

Section 1: Members The General Society of Mayflower Descendants shall consist of the Member Societies now existing and such other Member Societies as may from time to time be duly organized under the authority of the General Society.

Section 2: Government

- a. **General Congress (as also stated in ARTICLE VII Section 1a)** The Government of the General Society shall be vested in a General Congress that shall consist of the Officers of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, former Governors General, Former Assistant Governors General and Delegates from the Member Societies, each Member Society being entitled to one Delegate for every fifty members or majority fraction thereof.
- b. **General Board of Assistants (as also stated in ARTICLE VIII Section 1)** When the General Congress is not in session, a General Board of Assistants shall consist of the Officers of the General Society together with former Governors General and former Assistant Governors General of the General Society, who shall be members of the General Board of Assistants during their lifetime and membership in good standing. The General Board of Assistants shall have all the powers and authority of the General Congress, and shall report all action taken by them to the next General Congress. Except that the General Board of Assistants shall have no power to amend this Constitution and Bylaws as the General Congress may adopt.
- c. **Executive Committee (as also stated in ARTICLE IX Section 1)** When the General Board of Assistants is not in session an Executive Committee that shall consist of the Governor General, Assistant Governor General, Secretary General, Treasurer General, Historian General, Counsellor

[ART. III, Section2c cont-d]

General, Elder General, Captain General, Surgeon General and three members of the General Society elected by the General Congress after nominations are made from the floor. The Executive Committee shall have power to take action on any matters that may arise, which, in the judgment of the Governor General should be acted upon before the next meeting of the General Board of Assistants

Section 3: General Society Officers The Officers of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants shall be a Governor General, an Assistant Governor General, a Deputy Governor General from each Member Society, a Secretary General, a Treasurer General, a Historian General, an Elder General, a Captain General, a Surgeon General, a Counsellor General, one Assistant General from each Member Society, and the three members of the Executive Committee at Large.

Section 4: General Authority The General Congress and the General Board of Assistants shall have authority in all national and international questions, and in all such matters as may be referred to them by the Member Societies.

Section 5: Purpose of the Nonprofit Corporation Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the purposes for which the corporation was organized and operated was exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Qualifications All persons over eighteen years of age who are descended 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 less than eighteen years of age, shall be eligible for Junior Membership pursuant to Section 8 of this Article; provided however, (a) that no person shall be eligible for General Society or Member Society membership - regular, junior or life - 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 guilty of other treasonable practices; or who is not of good moral character; and any Member Society shall have the right to expel from its membership any person for any of these causes; and any question arising under this proviso (a) shall be determined by the affected Society; and provided further (b) that no one may become a member of any Society unless personally acceptable to it.

Section 2: Application Every application for membership in a Member Society shall be made on an application blank provided by such Society. Such application shall be signed by the applicant, or guardian, in a manner authorized by the Member Society.

Section 3: Preliminary Application Terminated After the preliminary application has been approved, the lineage papers shall be issued. If the lineage papers are not filled out in duplicate and filed with the Society within one year after the approval of the preliminary application, such approval shall lapse. Any Member Society, however, may, at its option, grant an extension of time.

Section 4: Lineage Approved by Historian General No person shall be a member of the General Society who is not a member in good standing of a Member Society. And no person shall be a member of a Member Society until his or her line of descent shall have been approved by the Historian General; provided, however, that if an irreconcilable difference of opinion shall exist between a Member Society and the Historian General as to the eligibility of an applicant for membership, such applicant may take an appeal to the General Board of Assistants, which may act as a body, or by a committee thereof to be appointed by the Governor General, and the decision of the General Board of Assistants or of such committee shall be final.

[ART. IV cont-d]

Section 5: Copies of Lineage Documents Any applicant for membership in any Member Society who shall make a request through a Member Society Historian for a copy of any lineage paper or documentary proofs that are in the office of the Historian General, shall be furnished the same at the fee as the General Board of Assistants may determine, said fees to be paid to the General Society through the Historian General.

Section 6: Dual Membership Any member may hold membership in more than one Member Society, and, if so, shall be eligible to represent such Member Societies as a delegate to a General Congress.

Section 7: Transfer and Reinstatement of Membership A member of any Member Society may be transferred to another Member Society upon the written application of such member to the Member Society to which transfer is desired.

- a. **Certificate of Good Standing** If the application for transfer is acted upon favorably by the Member Society to which transfer is desired, the applicant, if entitled thereto, shall be granted a certificate of good standing forthwith from the Secretary of the Member Society from which the applicant desires to be transferred together with a copy of his, or her, lineage papers, and shall file the same with the Secretary of the Member Society to which transfer is requested.
- b. **Fees for Transfer by Transferring Member Society** The Member Society from which the transfer is made, shall make no charge for the certificate of good standing, but may charge a fee to be determined by it for the copy of the member's lineage papers. Documentary proof shall be furnished upon payment of the cost of the same.
- c. **Fees for Transfer by Receiving Member Society** When a Member Society accepts a transferred member, it shall make such arrangements as to entrance fees and current dues as it may deem equitable.
- d. **Member and General Society Numbers** When a Member Society accepts a transferred member, it shall assign a Member Number to said member, the General Number to remain the same as before the transfer.
- e. **Notify Historian General of transfer** The Secretary of the Member Society to which the member is transferred, shall within five days, notify the Historian General of such transfer, together with the date of approval as a member and the new Member Number assigned to such member. Whereupon the Historian General shall transmit such information to the transferring Member Society.
- f. **Status of Membership** The transferring applicant's membership shall not be affected by such request for transfer, nor be terminated thereby until said applicant for transfer has been duly approved and accepted as a member of the transferee Member Society.
- g. **Reinstatement of a former Member Society Member** A former member of a Member Society may be re-instated in said Member Society by complying with such provisions governing like cases, as said Member Society may have established. However, no former member of a Member Society, who has been dropped from said Member Society for non-payment of dues, may become a member of another Member Society until re-instated in the same Member Society of which he was formerly a member. But any former member who is so re-instated, or who becomes a member of any other Member Society, shall, in every case, retain the General Number originally assigned by the Historian General. Should such former member become a member of a Member Society other than the

[ART. IV, Section 7 cont-d]

Member Society of which he, or she, was originally a member, the Secretary of such Member Society shall, within five days, notify the Historian General of the date of election and of the new Member Society Number assigned to such member.

- h. Refusal of Transfer and Right of Appeal** No Member Society on grounds of lineage only shall deny to a member in good standing of any other Member Society the privilege of transfer of membership except by furnishing in writing to the Historian General the reasons for such objection and if an irreconcilable conflict of opinion on the point at issue shall arise, the Member Society as well as the applicant shall have the right of appeal to the General Board of Assistants, which may act as a body, or by a committee thereof to be appointed by the Governor General, and the decision of the General Board of Assistants or of such committee shall be final.

Section 8. Junior Membership Member Societies may establish Junior Memberships 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 provisions in this Section.

- a. Junior Proven Lineage** A member in good standing in any Member Society may make application for Junior Membership in behalf of any person under eighteen (18) years of age who has a proven lineage. Such application may be approved and accepted by the Board of Assistants of any such Member Society subject to its rules as to dues, initiation fees and Junior Membership requirements. The term "proven lineage" shall mean that the junior whose membership is offered is related to a present or past member of the Society by blood through the line through which such member was proved for the Society.
- b. Junior Life Membership** A junior may be elected to Life Membership subject to the submission of the usual lineage papers executed by the member in behalf of the applicant and approved by the Member Society Historian and the Historian General.
- c. Junior Transfer to Regular Membership** Other Junior Members may, between the ages of eighteen (18) and twenty-five (25), transfer to Regular Membership in the Member Society in which the Junior Membership is held; provided the usual lineage papers shall have been furnished and approved, either prior to or at the time of the application for transfer from Junior to Regular Membership.
- d. Junior Membership Numbers** A Member Society and General number shall be assigned to each Junior Life Member and to the other Junior Members when they become Regular Members. Junior Member numbers may be assigned to Junior Members, but no Regular Member Number shall be assigned to any Junior Member other than a Junior Life Member.
- e. Junior No Right to Vote or Hold Office** No Junior Members and no Life Member under the age of eighteen (18) years may vote or hold office in any Member Society or in the General Society.
- f. Junior No Per Capita Assessment** Only Life Members and Regular Members shall be assessed a per capita tax by the Society.

ARTICLE V – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1: Officers Nominated by the Nominating Committee The Nominating Committee shall recommend to the Society nominees for the offices of Governor General, Assistant Governor General, Secretary General, Treasurer General, Historian General, Elder General, Captain General, Surgeon General and Counsellor General to serve for the subsequent triennium following the Congress of the General Society. Nominations from the floor shall also be accepted for any office.

Section 2: Electoral Votes of a Member Society For elections at a General Congress, each Member Society shall be entitled to one electoral vote for each two hundred members or any fractions thereof. The total electoral vote of any Member Society shall not be more than five electoral votes or less than one electoral vote.

Section 3: Nominations and Elections for DGG & AG The General Congress shall elect as Deputy Governors General and Assistants General, only those persons from each Member Society who are members of said Member Society, and who are nominated by their respective Member Society or who are selected by the plurality vote of the delegates present representing said Member Society at the General Congress. If a Member Society is not represented at the General Congress, the General Congress may elect for Deputy Governor General and Assistant General of the unrepresented Member Society, members nominated by that Member Society for the two positions.

Section 4: Executive Committee Members-at-Large There shall be three Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee, at least one, with a maximum of two whom shall be from a Member Society whose greater portion lies West of the 91st West Meridian (Longitude) and East of the 89th East Meridian (Longitude). In the case of dual memberships, a member's Member Society shall be considered to be the Member Society that first received the initial application of the member, unless said member be an officer representing the additional Member Society.

Section 5: Election of Officers After the opportunity for nominations made from the floor, the General Officers (including the three Executive Committee Members-at-Large) shall be elected at a regular meeting of the General Congress by electoral vote of the Member Societies present and voting. The General Officers shall be elected by majority vote and the three Executive Committee Members-at-Large shall be elected by plurality vote. Elections shall be by ballot, except if there is only one nominee for an office, in which case the vote for that office may be by voice vote.

Section 6: Term of Office The General Officers shall serve until the next regular meeting of the General Congress, or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified; with the exception of the Governor General and Secretary General who shall serve until the final adjournment of the Congress at which their successors are elected. The Governor General shall not serve two consecutive terms without the unanimous vote of the General Congress.

ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF GENERAL OFFICERS

Section 1: Governor General It shall be the duty of the **Governor General** to preside at all meetings of the General Congress, General Board of Assistants and the Executive Committee and perform such other duties as pertain to the chief officer of an organization.

Section 2: Assistant Governor General The **Assistant Governor General** shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him/her by the General Congress, General Board of Assistants, Executive Committee, and/or Governor General and shall preside at meetings of the General Congress, the General Board of Assistants, and

[ART. VI, Section 2 cont-d]

Executive Committee in case of the unavailability of the Governor General. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Governor General, the Assistant Governor General shall succeed to the office of Governor General.

Section 3: Secretary General It shall be the duty of the **Secretary General** to record all regular and special proceedings of the General Congress, General Board of Assistants and Executive Committee; to notify members of the General Board of Assistants of all meetings to be held; to transmit whatever notices and communications that may be required by the order of the General Congress, General Board of Assistants, or Governor General, and to perform all duties usually appertaining to such office, or perform such duties as may be prescribed by the General Board of Assistants, the Executive Committee and/or the Governor General.

Section 4: Treasurer General It shall be the duty of the **Treasurer General** to collect and take charge of all funds belonging to the General Society; to keep suitable books of account; to make all necessary disbursements upon approval of the Executive Committee, and to report the conditions of the treasury at all meetings of the General Board of Assistants; to perform such duties as may be prescribed by the General Congress, the General Board of Assistants, the Executive Committee and/or the Governor General. The Treasurer General shall give a bond in a surety company, for an amount which shall be determined by the General Board of Assistants. The expense of such bond shall be paid by the General Society. The Treasurer General shall be responsible for compliance with state and Federal reporting and registrations, reviewing books of accounts, accounts payable, accounts receivable, financial statements, etc., but day to day functions may be delegated to a qualified Society employee. The Treasurer General shall be a Certified Public Accountant,TM have an Accounting Degree from an accredited four year College or University, a Masters of Business Administration, or relevant experience.

Section 5: Historian General The **Historian General** shall examine and report upon the lineage papers, both original and supplemental, of all persons admitted as members of the Society; shall keep a complete list of the members and of all lines of descent filed by them; shall have charge of the issuing of certificates of membership and lineage papers; and file all historical documents and papers, and do any other work assigned him/her by the General Congress, the General Board of Assistants, the Executive Committee and/or the Governor General. The Historian General shall be the keeper of the Seal of the General Society.”

Section 6: Elder General It shall be the duty of the **Elder General** to officiate, when called upon, at any meeting of the General Congress or Society. The Elder General shall receive from the Secretary General, notices of the death of Officers and Former Officers of the General and/or Member Societies; see that condolences are sent to the family of the deceased member when appropriate; see that notifications of such deaths are prepared for printing in *The Mayflower Quarterly*; and see that the information is properly recorded in the archives of the General Society. The Elder General shall have been ordained as an elder, bishop, minister or deacon of a Christian Church. The Elder General shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him/her by the General Congress, General Board of Assistants, Executive Committee, and/or the Governor General.

Section 7: Captain General The **Captain General** shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him/her by the General Congress, General Board of Assistants, Executive Committee, and/or the Governor General, and act as Marshal at parades and on occasions of ceremony.

Section 8: Surgeon General The **Surgeon General** shall be duly licensed to practice medicine. The Surgeon General shall perform such duties as are prescribed by the General Congress, General Board of Assistants, Executive Committee, and/or the Governor General.

[ART. VI cont-d]

Section 9: Counsellor General The **Counsellor General** shall be an Attorney at Law and shall render legal aid and opinions upon matters pertaining to the Society when requested to do so by the General Congress, General Board of Assistants, Executive Committee, and/or the Governor General.

Section 10: Executive Committee Members-at-Large The **Executive Committee Members-at-Large** shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him/her by the General Congress or the General Board of Assistants, Executive Committee, and/or the Governor General.

ARTICLE VII – GENERAL CONGRESS

Section 1: Members (as also stated in ARTICLE III Section 2a.) The Government of the General Society shall be vested in a General Congress that shall consist of the Officers of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, former Governors General, Former Assistant Governors General and Delegates from the Member Societies, each Member Society being entitled to one Delegate for every fifty members or majority fraction thereof.

- a. **Membership Count to Determine the Number of Delegates** The number of delegates that shall represent each Member Society at General Congress shall be determined on the basis of membership, including Junior Life Members, as of July first of the year in which a Congress is held; and the Secretary of each Member Society shall notify the Secretary General of the membership as of that date, so that such notification will be received no later than July fifteenth.
- b. **Failure to Report Membership Count** Failing to receive such notification on or before July fifteenth, the Secretary General shall fix the number of Delegates to represent such Society failing to report on the basis of membership shown in its last annual report.
- c. **Minimum Number of Delegates** Each organized Member Society shall be entitled to at least three delegates.

Section 2: Regular Meetings The regular meetings of the General Congress shall be held at Plymouth, Massachusetts, triennially, to begin on the second Monday in September or upon such other date in September as the General Board of Assistants may designate.

Section 3: Special Meetings Special sessions of the General Congress may be called upon vote of the General Board of Assistants, and shall be called upon the vote of four Member Societies. The call for a special session of the General Congress shall be issued at least three months in advance, and no business except that specifically stated in the call shall be considered.

Section 4: Who Shall Vote On all matters besides adoption of amendments and levying assessments a Member Society shall be entitled to one electoral vote for each two hundred members or any fraction thereof. The total electoral vote of any Member Society shall not be more than five electoral votes or less than one electoral vote.

Section 5: Quorum A quorum of the General Congress shall consist of one hundred members who shall be officers of the General Society or duly elected delegates of the General Congress.

Section 6: Roll Call Vote Upon the request of three Member Societies, a vote shall be taken by the General Congress on any matter, by a roll call of the Member Societies.

[ART.VII cont-d]

Section 7: Minutes Minutes of each meeting of the General Congress shall be published in *The Mayflower Quarterly* after approval by the Governor General and the Secretary General.

Section 8: Order of Business Except as decided otherwise by a two-thirds vote of the electoral votes present, the order of business and the standing rules of the General Congress shall be determined by the Governor General, and usually include:

The calling of the General Congress to order by the Governor General.

Prayer by the Elder General.

Posting of the Colors.

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United Members of America.

Acceptance of the Minutes of the last General Congress.

Reports of the officers.

Report from the General Board of Assistants.

Reports from Committees.

Reports from Member Societies.

Unfinished Business.

New Business.

Election of Officers.

Benediction by the Elder General.

Section 9: Rules of Order All meetings of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants shall be conducted according to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, except to the extent to which they are inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws duly adopted by the General Congress and/or Standing Rules duly adopted by the General Board of Assistants, Executive Committee and General Congress.

ARTICLE VIII – GENERAL BOARD OF ASSISTANTS

Section 1: Members (as also stated in ARTICLE III Section 2b.) The officers of the General Society together with former Governors General and former Assistant Governors General of the General Society, who shall be members of the General Board of Assistants during their lifetime and membership in good standing, shall constitute the General Board of Assistants each member of which is entitled to one vote.

Section 2: Attendance Requirements A member of the General Board of Assistants who shall fail to be present at three successive meetings of the General Board of Assistants thereby vacates his membership on said General Board of Assistants and shall not be eligible for reelection within three years. This however, shall not apply to members of the General Board of Assistants residing at a distance of five hundred miles or more from the meeting place of the General Board of Assistants.

Section 3: Authority When the General Congress is not in session, the General Board of Assistants shall have all the powers and authority of the General Congress, and shall report all action taken by them to the next General Congress. Except that the General Board of Assistants shall have no power to amend the Constitution, or such Bylaws as the General Congress may adopt. The General Board of Assistants shall have general charge and direction of the affairs of the Society. It may appoint such standing and special committees as it may deem necessary or proper.

Section 4: Meetings Meetings of the General Board of Assistants may be called by the Governor General,

[ART. VIII, Section 4 cont-d]

and shall be called upon the written request of three of its members. Meetings shall be held at least once in each year. Said meetings may be held in any location and notice of each meeting shall be given one month in advance and shall state the object of the meeting. The Secretary General shall also send the notice of each meeting to the Secretary of each Member Society.

Section 5: Quorum At all meetings of the General Board of Assistants, forty-one members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6: Rules of Order All meetings of the General Board of Assistants shall be conducted according to the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, except to the extent to which they are inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws adopted by the General Congress and/or Standing Rules duly adopted by the General Board of Assistants, Executive Committee and General Congress.

Section 7: Removal of a General Officer The General Board of Assistants shall have power to remove any General Officer for cause; provided, however, that such General Officer shall, upon reasonable notice, be allowed to appear before the General Board of Assistants and to be heard.

Section 8: Fill Vacancy of a General Officer Vacancies occasioned by death, resignation, removal or suspension of a General Officer other than the Governor General may be filled by the majority vote of the Executive Committee until the next meeting of the General Board of Assistants which shall then fill the office for the unexpired term, except in the case of a vacancy caused by the death, resignation or removal of a Deputy Governor General or Assistant General, in which case the Member Society to which the officer was accredited shall notify the Secretary General of such death, resignation or removal and shall within three months following such death, resignation or removal certify to the Secretary General its nomination to fill the vacancy. On the failure of a Member Society to comply with these provisions, the vacancy may be filled by appointment of the Governor General until the next meeting of the General Board of Assistants which shall then fill the office for the unexpired term. Voting to fill vacancies mentioned in this paragraph shall be by a majority vote of a quorum of those present and eligible to vote.

Section 9: Appoint an Acting General Officer The General Board of Assistants in the absence, disability or death of the Assistant Governor General, Secretary General, Treasurer General, Historian General or Counsellor General, may appoint an Acting Assistant Governor General, Secretary General, Treasurer General, Historian General or Counsellor General. In the absence, disability, or death of the Governor General, the Assistant Governor General shall perform the duties of the Governor General.

Section 10: Fill Vacancy in a Committee The Governor General may fill vacancies occurring in committees. All committees appointed shall make reports through their chairman at each meeting of the General Board of Assistants.

ARTICLE IX – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1: Members (as also stated in ARTICLE III Section 2c.) There shall be an Executive Committee to consist of the Governor General, Assistant Governor General, Secretary General, Treasurer General, Historian General, Counsellor General, Elder General, Captain General and Surgeon General, and three members of the General Society. The Governor General shall be Chairman.

Section 2: Authority and Reporting The Executive Committee shall have power to take action on any matters that may arise, which, in the judgment of the Governor General should be acted upon before the next meeting of the General Board of Assistants; provided, however, that the Executive Committee shall have no

[ART. IX, Section 2 cont-d]

power to amend the Constitution or Bylaws of this Society. The Executive Committee, through the Secretary General, shall render a report at each meeting of the General Board of Assistants.

Section 3: Fill Vacancy in General Officers Between meetings of the General Board of Assistants, the Executive Committee shall have power to appoint officers to temporarily fill vacancies caused by death, resignation, absence or disability of an officer, such appointments to expire at the next meeting of the General Board of Assistants; provided, however, that such power of appointment shall not apply to the filling of a vacancy in the office of Governor General nor the filling of a vacancy in the office of members of the Executive Committee at Large.

Section 4: Budget A budget shall be approved by the Executive Committee and controlled or administered by the Treasurer General.

Section 5: Executive Committee Meetings There shall be Executive Committee meetings held as needed at a place and date selected by the Governor General. Meetings may be held in person or electronically.

Section 6: Electronic Voting Electronic voting by the Executive Committee shall be in compliance with the following procedures:

a. Call for a vote: Any Executive Committee Member can at any time submit to all other members of the Executive Committee a proposal to be decided via electronic voting (e.g. e-mail or other electronic means reasonably likely to lead to actual receipt by each recipient). Such proposal shall be seconded by e-mail before any further action is taken.

b. As soon thereafter as reasonably practical, the Secretary General shall resubmit said proposal to all of the members of the Executive Committee (at their most recent e-mail addresses on file with the Secretary General) and prescribe a reasonable time limit (at least 48 hours) as determined by the Governor General, which time limit may be extended as necessary by the Governor General if he/she deems that appropriate. Any vote may be cast or changed by the voter prior to the deadline (or extended deadline, of any).

c. Before there is any voting, any Executive Committee member may request that a live discussion take place by telephone conference call of the members of the Executive Committee to allow all such members the opportunity for open and free discussion of the motion.

d. Unless all members of the Executive Committee decide otherwise, each electronic vote cast shall be sent via electronic means (e.g. e-mail) to each other member of the Executive Committee. The Secretary General shall use his/her best efforts to achieve compliance with this requirement.

e. For an electronic vote to be determinative of an issue, the votes of the majority of the members of the Executive Committee must be received by the Secretary General by the deadline (or any extended deadline set by the Governor General). It is up to the Secretary General to make sure that a majority of Executive Committee member votes are cast (this may require phone calls, etc.).

f. Any matter duly and properly submitted to an electronic vote shall be deemed passed if a majority of the members of the Executive Committee vote in favor of said proposal.

g. As soon as reasonably practical after the conclusion of the electronic vote, the Secretary General shall communicate the results thereof to all Executive Committee members via electronic means (e.g. e-mail). Said communication shall restate the precise words of the proposal voted upon, as well as the number of votes in favor thereof, opposed thereto, or abstaining.

h. Any matter duly and properly submitted to and decided by electronic vote shall be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Executive Committee for ratification, unless the unanimous written consent of all Executive Board members has been received by the Secretary General. In the absence of unanimous written consent, a majority vote of a quorum at said meeting shall be required to ratify said electronic vote, and in the

[ART. IX, Section 6 cont-d]

absence of such a majority ratification, the electronic vote shall be deemed ineffective and of no force or effect.

ARTICLE X – COMMITTEES

Section 1: Nominating Committee It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to recommend to the General Society nominees for the offices of Governor General, Assistant Governor General, Secretary General, Treasurer General, Historian General, Elder General, Captain General, Surgeon General and Counsellor General to serve for the subsequent triennium following the General Congress of the Society. Such a committee is to be appointed by the Governor General and shall consist of former Governors General and Assistant Governors General who shall signify a willingness to serve on such a committee after being so requested by the Governor General and five or six members of the Society, so that the committee shall consist of an odd number of persons. The Governor General shall appoint a chairman of the committee. This committee is to be appointed at the annual meeting of the General Board of Assistants held during the calendar year prior to each General Congress of the Society and its list of nominees shall be submitted to the Secretary General and to the Editor of *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine* by February first of the year during which the General Congress is to be held. They shall be published in the spring issue of *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine* for that year. In the event that timely distribution of the Nominating Committee Report is not possible through *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*, the Secretary General shall provide copies of said Report by postal or electronic mail to all members of the General Board of Assistants, as well as the Governors and Secretaries of each Member Society prior to June 1st of the General Congress year. In case a meeting is called by the chairman or by a majority of the members of the committee, a quorum shall consist of those members present after all members of the committee have been duly notified of the meeting. Meetings may be held in person or electronically. The committee may act by mail or telephone ballot, or electronic (e.g. e-mail) vote as long as each member of the Committee is provided a reasonable and fair opportunity to vote on matters coming before said Committee. Telephone or email voting shall be by roll call. The ballot of the voting committee member shall be signed and dated by the voting member and held confidentially by the Nominating Committee Chair until after the election of officers at the General Congress after which they shall be destroyed. If any member of the committee challenges the outcome of the vote, such ballot shall be reviewed by the Counsellor General or a neutral member determined by the Governor General who shall verify the accuracy of the outcome of the committee vote.

Section 2: Other Committees The Governor General shall have the power to appoint standing and special committees and shall appoint the members of all committees and report such appointments to the Executive Committee and to the General Board of Assistants. The Governor General shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE XI – DUTIES OF A MEMBER SOCIETY

Section 1: Authority to Form a Member Society The General Board of Assistants may at any time authorize the formation of a Society of Mayflower Descendants in any state or country, not already having a Society of Mayflower Descendants, whenever twenty members residing in such state or country, who are in good standing in their respective Member Societies, shall sign a request for a charter for such Society and file it with the Secretary General.

Section 2: Members Required to Form a Member Society When there shall be fewer than twenty members in a Member, who are desirous of forming a Member Society, but with a number of descendants from passengers on the *Mayflower* whose voyage terminated at Plymouth, New England, in December, 1620, whose lines have not yet been approved, to total twenty or more, a descendant may sign the petition for the Member

[ART. XI, cont-d]

Society, provided said descendant has received a certification from the Historian General as to the validity of the descendant's lineage papers and from the Treasurer General that all required dues and fees of the first year of the proposed Society have been paid.

Section 3: Qualifications for a Charter to be Issued No charter shall be authorized until the Historian General has certified in writing that he has re-examined the lineage paper of each person whose name appears on the petition and has found their lines of descent to be correct and no charter shall be authorized until the good standing of each person whose name appears on the petition shall have been certified in writing by the Secretary of his Member Society.

Section 4: Charter Void if Member Society not Formed If the applicants to whom a charter may be granted do not meet and organize a Member Society within three months after the granting of the charter, such grant shall become void.

Section 5: Charter Void if Membership is too Small If the membership of any Member Society on the 31st of December, in any year, shall have been less than twenty for two calendar years, the charter, lineage papers and all other records of such Society shall be surrendered to the Secretary General, and the Member Society shall be suspended until at least twenty applicants, residing in that state or country, who shall be approved by the General Society, shall ask for the reissue of said charter, constituting such applicants the Society of Mayflower Descendants in said state or country, subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Society.

Section 6: Member Society Forms its Own Constitution & Bylaws All Member Societies shall have authority to form their own Constitution and Bylaws, which, however, shall not be in any respect inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Society, and a copy of such Constitution and Bylaws shall be submitted to the Secretary General and Counsellor General at least fifteen days before adoption

Section 7: Lineage Papers Filed with the Historian General Each Member Society shall file with the Historian General a duplicate of the lineage papers of each person admitted as a member of the Society.

Section 8: Deficient Lineage Papers Should any lineage paper at any time appear to the Historian General to be deficient, he or she shall notify the Historian of the Member Society from which it was received.

Section 9: DGG & AG Nominated by a New Member Society When a new Member Society is fully organized it may nominate from its members a Deputy Governor General and an Assistant General and shall then notify the General Board of Assistants of its choice, and the General Board of Assistants shall have power to elect such nominees.

Section 10: Colonies May be Formed When a Member Society wishes to create and maintain, within that state or country, for geographical considerations and convenience, Colonies, it shall amend its Constitution and Bylaws for that purpose. Such changes shall not include any provisions that are inconsistent with, or in any way contrary to, the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Society. The Colonies do not supersede the Member Societies; they are created under the authority of the Member Societies. The title Governor shall not be used in designating any official of the Colony; however, terms such as Colony Governor are acceptable.

Section 11: Right to Suspend a Member Society After notice and hearing before a majority of the members of the Executive Committee of the General Society, the General Board of Assistants may suspend a Member Society or revoke its charter for conduct or actions deemed prejudicial to the General Society, including, but not limited to the following: conduct or actions in opposition to, or in conflict with, the objects of the General

[ART. XI, cont-d]

Society; conduct or actions which bring embarrassment, ridicule or disgrace to the General Society, its members or the memory of our Pilgrim ancestors; misuse of the name, insignia, logo of the General Society or of the Member Society; or permitting persons not members of a Member Society to act as officers or significantly control the activities of a Member Society.

ARTICLE XII: FEES AND REPORTS REQUIRED OF A MEMBER SOCIETY

Section 1: Annual Reports Each Member Society shall annually transmit to the Secretary General not later than February 1st, a statement giving the number of its members and any matters of interest in its history; also making any suggestions which it may deem profitable for the General Society to consider.

Section 2: Annual Assessment Each Member Society shall pay to the General Society, not later than April 1st each year, a per capita assessment based on the Member Society membership count as of December 31st of the previous year. The per capita assessment amount is to be determined by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Board of Assistants or General Congress. Any member who has been excused by the Members Society from paying dues while actively engaged in the armed forces of their country of allegiance will be excluded from the per capita assessment with a request for exclusion from the Member Society received by the General Society no later than December 31st of the year assessed. No other assessment shall be levied except by a two-thirds vote of all Member Societies represented and voting at a General Board of Assistants meeting or General Congress.

Section 3: Special Assessment Any special assessment shall be on a per capita basis.

Section 4 Lineage Assessment Each Member Society shall pay to the General Society, a lineage assessment, as determined by the Executive Committee and approved by the General Board of Assistants or the General Congress, with each original lineage paper and each supplemental line of descent, that is submitted to the office of the Historian General. The lineage assessment will be effective January 1st of the year following adoption by the General Board of Assistants or the General Congress.

Section 5: Suspending Member Society for non-compliance with this Article If, in any year, any Member Society has not filed the required annual reports or paid the required annual assessments as stated in this Article, the Secretary General shall, on the first day of such month, notify the Deputy Governor General and Assistant General of such Member Society by certified mail, return receipt requested, of said fact, and if such requirements have not been complied with, on or before the tenth day of said month, such Member Society shall stand suspended until such requirement has been complied with. Upon the suspension of such Member Society the Secretary General shall thereupon notify the Governor General, the Historian General, the Treasurer General and the Secretary of each Member Society of such suspension. Until its reinstatement, such suspended Member Society will not be regarded as affiliated with the General Society. Upon the reinstatement of such suspended Member Society, the Secretary General shall notify the above-mentioned officials of such fact.

ARTICLE XIII: SEALS, FLAGS, STATIONERY & OTHER INSIGNIA

Section 1: Official Seal The seal of the Society shall contain a representation of a sailing vessel of the Seventeenth Century, and around it the name of the General Society, and the words "1620 Plymouth 1897." All Member Societies shall adopt this Seal, with the words "Plymouth 1620" and the name of their own Member Society and the year of their organization.

Section 2: Official Flag The flag of the Society shall be the British Jack of the seventeenth century, that is to say, a blue field with a white saltire, known as the cross of St. Andrew on which is superimposed a red cross, fimbriated white, known as the cross of St. George. The whole charged in the center with the seal of the General Society, or of the Member Society as the case may be, proper. The flag is to be edged with golden fringe. A golden cord and tassels may be suspended from the summit of the pike. The flag shall be of a silk-like material.

Section 3: Official Stationery Stationery of the General Society, or of a Member Society, shall be used only by officers, or duly appointed committees of the General Society or of any Member Society, respectively; and only for the transaction of official business. No advertising other than that relating to activities of the Society shall appear on official stationery.

Section 4: Other Official Insignia There shall be a certificate of membership, insignia, rosette and flag, selected and approved by the General Society. These shall be the same for all the Member Societies, the certificates of membership being issued by the officers of the General Society.

Section 5: Use of Name and Insignia The name of either the General Society, or that of a Member Society, or any part of their official die, or device, may not be used other than for official business.

ARTICLE XIV – AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Who May Submit an Amendment Amendments, alterations and additions to these Bylaws must be submitted in writing, by a vote of the General Board of Assistants or of a Member Society, to the Secretary General of the General Society, at least six months before the session of the General Congress at which such amendment is to be considered and the Secretary General shall mail a printed copy of all proposed amendments to the Secretary of each Member Society at least five months before such session.

Section 2: Vote Required to Amend A two thirds vote of the Member Societies represented by delegates present and voting at a session of the General Congress shall be required for the adoption of any amendment, such vote to be taken by Member Society, and each Member Society shall have one vote. A majority of the delegates present representing such Member Society, with the General Officers present, belonging to such Member Society, shall be required to determine the vote of such Member Society on all questions.

ARTICLE XV – DISSOLUTION

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any assets not so disposed shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for these purposes or to organization(s), as the Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for exempt purposes as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

List of Member Societies by Date of Charter

NEW YORK - Founded December 22, 1894.

CONNECTICUT - Founded March 7, 1896.

MASSACHUSETTS - Founded March 28, 1896.

PENNSYLVANIA - Founded July 1, 1896.

ILLINOIS - Charter, June 1, 1897.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Charter, March 22, 1898.
OHIO - Charter, March 22, 1898.
NEW JERSEY - Charter, August 15, 1900.
WISCONSIN - Charter, February 8, 1901.
RHODE ISLAND - Charter, February 8, 1901.
MICHIGAN - Charter, February 8, 1901.
MAINE - Charter, September 6, 1901.
COLORADO - Charter, January 31, 1906.
CALIFORNIA - Charter, October 17, 1907.
WASHINGTON - Charter, March 28, 1912.
KANSAS - Charter, November 21, 1914.
INDIANA - Charter, March 21, 1916.
NEBRASKA - Charter, December 16, 1922.
NORTH CAROLINA - Charter, September 2, 1924.
VERMONT - Charter, August 29, 1927.
IOWA - Charter, March 27, 1928.
MISSOURI - Charter, April 14, 1928.
OREGON - Charter, December 28, 1928.
GEORGIA - Charter, October 31, 1929.
NEW HAMPSHIRE - Charter, August 5, 1930.
MINNESOTA - Charter, December 11, 1931.
TEXAS - Charter, December 24, 1931.
FLORIDA - Charter, July 31, 1937.
MARYLAND - Charter, March 5, 1938.
SOUTH CAROLINA - Charter, July 1, 1938.
KENTUCKY - Charter, October 27, 1943.
LOUISIANA - Charter, July 14, 1945.
IDAHO - Charter, November 21, 1946.
MISSISSIPPI - Charter, January 29, 1947.
OKLAHOMA - Charter, March 29, 1947.
NORTH DAKOTA - Charter, October 26, 1947.
TENNESSEE - Charter, August 10, 1948.
UTAH - Charter, November 5, 1948.
WEST VIRGINIA - Charter, November 6, 1948.
VIRGINIA - Charter, January 10, 1950.
ALABAMA - Charter, December 6, 1952.
ARKANSAS - Charter, April 8, 1954.
MONTANA - Charter, May 14, 1955.
WYOMING - Charter, May 17, 1955.
NEW MEXICO - Charter, June 4, 1955.
ARIZONA - Charter, June 6, 1955.
SOUTH DAKOTA - Charter, October 20, 1956.
NEVADA - Charter, December 1, 1956.
HAWAII - Charter, August 30, 1958.
DELAWARE - Charter, October 11, 1958.
ALASKA - Charter, August 24, 1963.
CANADA - Charter, September 13, 1980
EUROPE – Charter, December 10, 2016
AUSTRALIA - Charter, January 26, 2020

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