

**BYLAWS OF THE SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER
DESCENDANTS IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this Society shall be the "Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida."

ARTICLE II - THE OBJECTS OF THIS SOCIETY SHALL BE:

Section 1. To perpetuate to a remote posterity the memory of our 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, the advancement of the Christian faith and honour of our countrie."

Section 2. To cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American freedom and to oppose any theories or actions that threaten their continuity.

Section 3. 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.

Section 4. "To promote the interests that are common to all the State Societies .of Mayflower Descendants which can best be served by a federal body, and to secure united efforts to discover and publish original matter in regard to the Pilgrims, together with existing data known only to antiquarians, and to authenticate, preserve and mark historical spots made memorable by Pilgrim association."

Section 5. The Society shall not carryon any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. 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. No person shall be eligible for the State Society or Colony membership 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 any treasonable practice, or who is not of good moral character; and the State Society or Colony involved shall have the right to expel from membership any person for any of these causes; and any question arising under this proviso (a) shall be determined by the Board of assistants for members and provided further (b) that no one may become a member of this Society unless personally acceptable to it.

Section 2. Every application for membership in Florida State Society shall be made on a preliminary blank provided by the Society. Such applications shall bear the autograph signature of the candidate and two members of the Society shall vouch for the applicant.

Section 3. Any applicant for membership in this Society who shall make a request through the State Historian for copy of any lineage paper in the office of the Historian General shall be furnished the same upon payment of a designated fee. Copies of documentary proofs, however, may be furnished on payment of such charges as the Historian General may determine. Said fees to be paid to the General Society through the State Historian to the Historian General.

Section 4. After a prospective member has completed the preliminary application, duly countersigned by two members of the FSMD and accompanied by the stated fee, the Colony Historian shall forward same to the State Historian. That officer will then forward lineage working papers to the applicant, who has a nine (9) month period in which to prepare and submit the papers unless granted an extension of time by the State Historian in order to seek additional documentation when it is perceived that the applicant is making a valid effort to complete the lineage papers. When the applicant has satisfactorily completed the worksheet, the permanent application lineage papers will next be completed and forwarded through the State Historian to the Historian General, GSMD. If the papers are not completed on time, or if they are not accepted by the Historian General, GSMD, the application is null and void, and the fee paid is non-refundable.

Section 5. The State Society may establish Junior membership for juniors of any age up to eighteen years, which membership may continue until the age of twenty-five years, in accordance with the provisions of this section. A member in good standing in the State Society may make application for Junior Membership in behalf of any person under eighteen years of age who has a proven lineage, meaning that the Junior is related to a past or present member of the Society by blood through the same line of descent through which the member was approved by the Society. Applications can be obtained from the State Junior Membership Chairman and returned to same for processing after completion by the Sponsor. The applicant for enrollment shall not be required to complete lineage papers, or prove descent. A Junior of the Society is automatically a Junior of the colony whose member is the Sponsor. The State Junior Membership Chairman will assign Junior State numbers and issue Certificates to applicants.

Junior members may, between the ages of eighteen and the 25th birthday, transfer to Regular Membership in the State 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 from Junior to Regular Membership. No payment of the initiation fee will be required. They shall become members of the Colony in Florida in which the Sponsor is currently a member. A State and General Number shall be assigned to each Junior member upon becoming a Regular Member.

Section 6. Nothing in this article is to be construed as preventing members of this Society from holding membership in other Societies. A new member must be in the Florida Society for one year before requesting a transfer into another State Society.

Section 7. Members of other State Societies residing in this State may become active members of this Society under the provisions for regular members, except that payments of the initiation fee shall be waived.

Section 8. Any local group of twelve members of the State Society may make application to the State Governor for approval to form a new Florida Colony. Said members must intend to join the new Colony if approved. The State Governor will appoint one of them to be the new Colony Governor and hereafter serve on the Board of Assistants of the State Society. The Colony may choose an appropriate name and adopt bylaws, provided the same in all respects conform to this constitution. Upon completion of the organization the Colony shall have self-governing powers, except for the establishment of annual dues which are regulated by Article VII, Section 2, of these bylaws, and except for the regulation of the length of terms of office of Colony officers, which are set by Article IV, Section 2 of these bylaws. If the membership of a Colony on the 31st of December, in any year, shall be less than twelve members for two calendar years, by vote of the Board of Assistants, such Colony may be declared suspended and its rights under this Section revoked. In the interest of the State and General Societies, the Colony must hold at least three meetings a year.

Section 9. Any member of the Society, except a Junior Member, who has been a member for more than one year may become a Life Member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida upon payment of a fee set by the State at an annual meeting. He or she shall thereafter be exempt from personal payment of the annual dues imposed by Article VII of these bylaws. All Life Membership fees shall be maintained by the State Treasurer in a Life Membership Reserve Fund (LMRF). From said fund, the Treasurer shall pay all annual Colony, State Society and General Society dues on behalf of each Life Member who has

been reported by the Colony as alive. The administration of Life Memberships will be prescribed in the Society's Standing Rules.

SEE NOTE BELOW: (Adopted 20 Nov 2010 - *Effective Nov. 1, 2012, any member of the Society who has attained the age of 50 years and has been a member for more than five years may apply to become...*)

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the society shall be a Governor, a deputy Governor, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Historian, an elder, a Counsellor and three Directors (See Section 6 below).

Section 2. These officers shall be elected at three-year intervals effective at the annual meeting in 1990, a plurality of votes determining the choice.

Election shall be by ballot or by voice vote where only one person is nominated for an office. They shall assume office immediately following the annual meeting at which they are elected and shall continue to serve until their successors are duly elected and installed.

Section 3. All officers shall be elected for a term of three years. No officer who has been elected and has served a full term shall be eligible for re-election the next succeeding term with the exception of State Historian, State Treasurer and State Secretary who shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself for additional terms without limitation.

Section 4. A nominating committee, consisting of three members, shall be elected at the annual meeting preceding the annual meeting for the election of officers. This committee shall present the names of a full slate of officers at the regular time for the election of officers. However, names may be presented from the floor for any of the positions to be filled.

Section 5. The Deputy Governor General and the Assistant General who shall represent this Society in such capacities upon confirmation by the General Board of Assistants, shall be selected in the following manner: Each Colony may submit one or two names from the Colony to be voted on by the Board of Assistants at the annual meeting held immediately preceding the triennial meeting. They shall be elected to serve for terms of three (3) years and no Deputy Governor General or Assistant General who has been elected and who has served one full term shall be eligible to succeed themselves.

Section 6. FSMD officers, together with the Deputy Governor General and the Assistant General, the Governors of each Colony and the Immediate Past Governor of the FSMD shall constitute the Board of Assistants of this Society.

ARTICLE V - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Governor shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Assistants; shall appoint the Parliamentarian, the Auditor; appoint all committees and perform such other duties as pertain to the chief officer of any similar organization.

Section 2. The Deputy Governor shall perform all of the duties of Governor during the absence or disability of the Governor.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings and proceedings of the Society and of the Board; keep complete lists of all members and notify members of the Society and of the Board of Assistants of all meetings to be held, make such notices and communications as may be ordered by the Society or by the Governor, and perform all duties usually pertaining to such office. The Secretary shall be the keeper of the Seal of the Society and see that all members who desire and pay the fee established by the General Society shall be provided with the certificates, insignia, rosettes and other emblems furnished by the General Society.

A copy of the minutes of all meetings and all adopted resolutions shall be sent to all Board Members not later than one month following the meeting.

A Colony shall immediately send notice of the death of a member to the State Secretary, who will then notify the State Historian and State Elder.

A Colony shall send a list of newly elected officers to the State Governor, State Secretary, State Historian and State Treasurer as soon as possible.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall take charge of all funds belonging to the Society; keep suitable books of accounts; charge, collect and receive all fees, dues and all other monies payable to the State Society; invest with approval of the Finance Chairman all special funds of the Society; report the condition of the Treasury at all stated meetings of the Society and to the Governor or Board of Assistants at any time they may ask for a report. The Treasurer shall, if the Board of Assistants requires it, furnish bond, in excess of the estimated funds being held at any time, for faithful handling of the funds, the premium of such bond to be paid from the funds of the society. The Governor shall be designated on all Society checking or savings accounts as an alternate signer. The books and records of the Treasurer shall be audited annually, and always at the change of Treasurer, at the expense of the Society, by the Finance Chairman or by someone approved by the Finance Chairman.

Section 5. The Historian shall examine and report on all lineage papers of applicants; shall be custodian of all blank applications, lineage papers and computer disks; shall make a detailed report of all celebrations of the society, and file all documents, papers and speeches; shall notify members of their election and keep a record of all signed certificates and perform any other duties assigned by the Board of Assistants. The Historian shall, when practicable, assist applicants in filling out their lineage papers.

The State Historian shall place the State number on all lineage papers accepted by the Historian General.

All Passports shall be dated by the State Historian, placing correct date of admission to the State Society and given to all new members.

Section 6. The Elder shall officiate when called upon at any regular meeting of the Society. The Elder shall send a message of condolence after having been notified by the Secretary of the death of a member and conduct a memorial service at the annual meeting of the Society.

Section 7. The Captain shall carry out all orders of the Governor, protect the flags of the Society, and act as a Marshal at parades and on occasions of ceremony.

Section 8. The Counsellor shall render aid and opinions upon matters pertaining to the Society when requested to do so by the Governor or by the Board of Assistants.

ARTICLE VI - ASSISTANTS AND COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Board of Assistants shall have general charge of affairs of the Society. The Board shall meet during the annual meeting of the Society and at such times as it shall be called together by the Governor. One-third of the members shall constitute a quorum. The Board shall fill all vacancies that may occur in the Board or offices of the Society for the remainder of the term. Any member, for cause or conduct prejudicial to the interests of the Society, may be suspended or expelled by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Assistants. But no member shall be suspended or expelled unless written charges against such member have been presented to the Board of Assistants, who shall give such member reasonable opportunity to be heard and to refute such charges.

Section 2. The Standing Committees to be appointed by the Governor shall include: Membership, Finance, Public Relations, Education, Junior Members, Bylaws, Scholarship, and others deemed necessary. They shall meet at the call of their chair people to perform such duties as are given to them by the Governor and will report their progress at all stated meetings.

Section 3. The Finance Chairman should be a member qualified by experience and/or training to perform the duties set forth in this section in ARTICLE V, Section 4. The Finance Chairman shall be furnished with copies of all financial reports concerning funds belonging to the Society.

ARTICLE VII - FEES AND DUES

Section 1. A fee as set by FSMD (See STANDING RULES) must accompany each application, original or supplemental. In the event of an unfavorable action of any applicant, or the application is not completed within the time limit specified (See Article III, Section 4), no refund will be made.

Section 2. There shall be statewide uniform dues annually assessed against and payable by each member except Life Members and Junior Members. Such dues will be established by two-thirds vote of the membership attending an annual meeting. Annual dues shall be payable on or before the first of January of each calendar year. Colony Treasurers shall collect from members of their colony and shall, on or before March 15, remit to the State Treasurer dues as decided by the Board of Assistants, which shall include dues of the General Society. Members who are in arrears as much as six months may be dropped from the rolls of the Society by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Assistants at the annual meeting unless, by special resolution, the Board shall extend the time for the payment of dues.

Section 3. Special assessments against members of the Society may be levied by the Board of Assistants, but only in cases of pressing necessity and only if authorized by a majority vote of the members of the Society at a regular or special meeting of the membership. Colonies may levy special assessments against Colony members, if authorized in accordance with the charters, constitutions and bylaws of such Colonies.

Section 4. A fund shall be appropriated to help defray expenses of the Governor or the Governor's representative at each Triennial General Congress. A further fund shall be appropriated to help defray expenses of the Deputy Governor General and the Assistant General in traveling to and attending General Society meetings. (See STANDING RULES)

Section 5. Members of another State Society may have his/her membership transferred to the Florida State Society by submitting the preliminary application and furnishing a certified copy of lineage papers and a certificate of good standing.

Section 6. Members of other State Societies, in good standing, and residing in this state, may become active members of this Society under the provisions for regular members, except that payment of the initiation fees shall be waived.

Section 7. TRANSFERS.

A. TRANSFER FEES: A member requesting a transfer out of FSMD will be charged a transfer fee in the amount as established by a two-thirds vote of the membership attending an annual meeting, and as set forth in the Standing Rules. There shall be no fee charged for transfers into the FSMD or made within the FSMD itself.

B. INTRASTATE TRANSFERS: A request for an intrastate transfer from one Colony to another Colony within the FSMD is made through the member's current Colony Historian, who then coordinates the transfer through the State Historian to the accepting Colony Historian. Prior to effecting such transfers, the State Historian shall ensure that the member is in good standing by ensuring that membership dues have been paid for the current calendar year to the losing activity, prior to declaring a transfer action final. No further dues shall be charged that member by the gaining activity for that current calendar year, if dues have already been paid for that particular calendar year at the previous activity.

C. INTERSTATE TRANSFERS: A member who wishes to transfer in or out of the FSMD, from or to another State Society, shall make such a request by submitting a preliminary application form and checking for any transfer fee through their accepting/losing Colony Historian to the State Historian.

(1) Transfers-Out: The State Historian of FSMD will determine if a member is in "good standing" by ensuring membership dues have been paid for the current calendar year through verification of status with the Colony Treasurer, FSMD. If the member is in good standing, the State Historian will issue a certificate of good standing and provide copies of any lineage papers on hand for the member requesting transfer to be submitted to their new State Society Historian, along with their preliminary application to join that Society.

(2) Transfers-In: Persons desiring to transfer into the FSMD who have allowed their membership to lapse in another State Society due to nonpayment of dues or failure to properly submit resignation, must be reinstated in that Society, prior to being considered for a transfer-in. In all cases, a member requesting a transfer into FSMD must obtain a certificate of "member in good standing" which states that membership dues have been paid for the current year, along with copies of the member's lineage papers from their previous State Society Historian, and submit them along with a preliminary application to the State Historian, FSMD, through the accepting FSMD Colony Historian.

D. FINALIZING TRANSFERS: Once the State Historian, FSMD, has received all required documentation and fees required for any type of transfer, he/she shall be responsible for the assignment of State membership numbers for the incoming members, as well as coordinating simultaneous notification of these transfers to the Historian General, GSMD, the State Historian of the losing/gaining State Society, FSMD, State Secretary and the FSMD Colony Historian concerned. Checks received for fees should be made payable to the Florida Mayflower Society and are to be forwarded directly to the State Treasurer, FSMD. The Colony Historian, in turn, shall be responsible for simultaneously notifying their appropriate Colony officers. (See STANDING RULES)

Section 8. Members in good standing who may desire to present supplemental lines for approval may secure from the State Historian blanks for the preparation of said lines upon the payment of a fee for each supplement. In the event that any supplemental lines are not accepted, no refund will be made. (See STANDING RULES)

Section 9. A member desiring reinstatement after being dropped for nonpayment of dues, or failure to submit a formal letter of resignation, may do so upon request for reinstatement and payment of any dues which were in arrears at the time they ceased to be a member; payment of dues for the current year of reinstatement; plus "a reinstatement fee as set by a two-thirds vote of the membership attending an annual meeting. The Colony Treasurers will determine the amount which was in effect at the time the member was dropped plus the payment of the current amount. Or, if the reinstatement is not desired, he/she shall pay the arrears for the year membership ceased, and the record shall read as having resigned in good standing in that year. (See STANDING RULES)

ARTICLE VIII - MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual meetings of this Society shall be held on the Saturday closest to the date of November 21, the anniversary of the signing of the Mayflower Compact, each year, at a place determined by the Board of Assistants, who shall also set a suitable date in the event that November 21st falls on Sunday, or for any other justifiable reason.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Society may be held at any specified time or place at the call of the Governor, or upon written request of ten members. The object of such meetings shall be stated in the notice and no other business shall be transacted, except by unanimous consent of all members present and voting.

Section 3. The Board of Assistants shall hold its meeting at such times and places as the Governor shall appoint. The Governor must call a meeting of the Board upon written request of three of its members.

Section 4. Fifteen (15) days notice in writing shall be given of all meetings of the Board of Assistants, such notices to be sent to addresses of all members as they appear in the records of the Society.

Section 5. Twenty members of the Society shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting.

Section 6. The suggested order of business of all stated meetings of the Society or Board of Assistants shall be as follows:

1. Reading of minutes of previous stated and intervening Special Meetings.
2. Communications.
3. Reports of officers.
4. Reports of committees.
5. Unfinished business
6. New business.
7. Nominations and elections of officers (at appropriate meetings) .
8. Adjournment

ARTICLE IX - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws or any special rules of order which the Society may adopt.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended only by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the annual meeting, provided that a copy of the proposed amendment shall have been mailed to each member at least ten days prior to the meeting. Such proposed amendment may be amended at the meeting at which it is voted upon, provided that the amendment is germane to the proposed amendment and does not extend or increase the scope.

ARTICLE XI

Upon the dissolution of this Society, all of its assets remaining after payment of all costs and expenses of such dissolution shall be distributed to organizations which have qualified for exemption under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or to the Federal Government, or to a State or Local Government, for a public purpose and none of the assets will be distributed to any member, officer or trustee of this Society.

NOTE:

Amended:

Article III, Section 9

Effective Nov. 1, 2012, any member of the Society who has attained the age of 50 years and has been a member for more than five years may apply to become a Life Member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Florida upon payment of a fee set by the State at an annual meeting. He or she shall thereafter be exempt from personal payment of the annual dues imposed by Article VII of these bylaws. All Life Membership fees shall be maintained by the State Treasurer in a Life Membership Reserve Fund (LMRF). From said fund, the Treasurer shall pay all annual Colony, State Society and General Society dues on behalf of each Life Member who has been reported by the Colony as alive. The administration of Life Memberships will be prescribed in the Society's Standing Rules.

(Adopted 20 Nov 2010)