

## **Colorado Mayflower Society By-Laws**

### Article I. Membership.

Sec. 1. A person desiring membership in the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Colorado may be invited by a member in good standing. Applications for membership shall be made in writing on preliminary application blanks furnished by the Colorado Society. Such application must have the signatures of the applicant and two members of the Society.

Sec. 2. The State Historian shall issue a General Society lineage worksheet to applicants.

Sec. 3. Worksheets, when completed, shall be submitted with supporting documentation to the Historian for further action under procedures established by the General Society. Following approval of an applicant's lineage papers by the Historian General, the State Historian shall declare the applicant elected to the Colorado Society.

Sec. 4. No person whose preliminary application has been rejected or withdrawn shall be entitled to have a new application considered within one year of such rejection or withdrawal.

Sec. 5. A member in good standing in the Colorado Society may make application for Junior Membership in behalf of any person under eighteen (18) years of age who has a prima facie proven lineage. The term "prima facie 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 by the Society.

Sec. 6. Junior Members may, between the ages of eighteen (18) and twenty-five (25), transfer to Regular Membership, provided that the usual lineage papers shall have been furnished and approved at the time of the application for transfer from Junior to Regular Membership. A Junior Member who transfers to Regular Membership prior to his or her twenty-fifth birthday shall not be assessed an Initiation Fee. Junior Members who do not transfer to Regular Membership prior to the twenty-fifth birthday shall be dropped from membership.

Article II.  
Meetings.

Sec. 1. The annual meeting shall be held in metropolitan Denver on or about the twenty-first of November (anniversary of the signing of "The Mayflower Compact"), the precise date, hour and place to be determined by the Board of Assistants.

Sec. 2. A regular semi-annual meeting of the Society shall be held on or about the twenty-first day of May.

Sec. 3. Special meetings of the Society may be held at any specified time and place at the call of the Governor or upon written request of ten members. The object of such special meeting must be stated in the notice.

Sec. 4. The Board of Assistants (consisting of the Officers and Assistants) shall hold meetings at the discretion of the Governor or on call of three members of the Board at such hours and places as he or they may determine. All past Governors of the Society shall be invited to participate in meetings of the Board of Assistants, but they may not vote.

Sec. 5. A minimum of three days notice shall be given of all meetings of the Board of Assistants and a minimum of seven days notice of all meetings of the Society.

Sec. 6. At all regular or special meetings of the Society twenty members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. At all meetings of the Board of Assistants five members shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 7. The order of business at all stated meetings of the Society or Board of Assistants shall be:

- A. Minutes of the last meeting.
- B. Reports of officers and chairmen of committees.
- C. Unfinished business.
- D. New business.
- E. Adjournment.

Sec. 8. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the deliberations of the Society and Board of Assistants.

Article III.  
Election of Officers.

Sec. 1. Prior to its September meeting, in election years, the Board of Assistants shall appoint a nominating committee of five members of the Society which shall name candidates for offices to be filled at the annual meeting of the Society. The ticket named by the nominating committee shall be printed and mailed by the Secretary to each member of the Society at least two weeks before the annual meeting. Any member may also be nominated for any office from the floor at the annual meeting of the Society provided that the nominee has agreed to serve if elected.

Sec. 2. In the event of a contest, elections shall be by secret ballot, with a plurality vote of the members present determining the winner.

Sec. 3. Effective November, 2008, persons elected shall enter office immediately and serve for a period of three years or until the election of their successors.

Sec.4. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the Board of Assistants for the unexpired portion of the term.

Sec. 5. The two National representatives from the Colorado State Society of Mayflower Descendants to the General Congress and the General Society of Society of Mayflower Descendants Board of Assistants meetings shall be nominated as follows (subject to election by the General Society):

Deputy Governor General: The Deputy Governor General position shall be represented by the immediate past Colorado State Governor or, in the event that the former Governor cannot attend the General Society meetings as stated above, the current Governor shall temporarily fill this position, subject to election by the General Society. If neither the immediate past Governor nor the current Governor can attend the General meetings, the Board of Assistants of the Colorado State Society shall, through election, nominate a temporary representative. The terms of office shall coincide with regular biannual Society elections.

Assistant General: The Assistant General position shall be filled by the current Governor of the Society, or if the current Governor is representing the Society as Deputy Governor General or cannot otherwise attend the General meetings, the Board of Assistants of the Colorado Society shall, through election, nominate a temporary representative.

Article IV.  
Duties of Officers.

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of the Governor to preside at all meetings of the Society and the Board of Assistants, and to perform such other duties as pertain to the chief officer of an organization.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the Deputy Governor to exercise all the functions of the officer of Governor during the absence or disability of the Governor.

Sec. 3. The Captain shall carry out all orders of the Governor and act as marshall at parades and on occasions of ceremony. He or she shall serve as custodian of the Society flags and shall bring them to all Society meetings.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of the Elder to officiate when called upon at any meeting of the Society. No one shall hold this office unless he or she has been ordained as an elder, bishop, minister or deacon of a Christian church.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the Secretary or, in his or her absence or disability, of the Assistant Secretary to record all proceedings of the Society and the Board, to keep complete lists of all members, to notify members of the Society and Board of Assistants of all meetings to be held, to file reports required by the General Society, including changes of names and addresses of individual members, to make whatever notices and communications may be required by order of the Society or the Governor, and in general to perform all duties usually pertaining to such office. The Secretary shall also see that any members of the Society who desire them are provided with the insignia furnished by the General Society at the established price.

Sec. 6. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to take charge of all funds belonging to the Society, to keep suitable books of account, to charge, collect and receive all fees and dues and all other moneys payable to the Society, to make all necessary disbursements customarily incurred by the Society or special expenditures authorized by the Board, and to report the condition of the treasury at all Society or Board meetings. The Treasurer shall send to each member, a written notice of annual dues for the ensuing year payable by January first for the ensuing year.

Sec. 7. The Historian, or in his or her absence or disability, the Assistant Historian, shall offer minor assistance to applicants for membership and shall process Regular Applications, Supplemental Applications, Transfers In, Transfers Out and Dual Memberships in accordance with General Society procedures. The Historian shall notify applicants of their election following approval of lineage papers by the Historian General or following transfer in and shall notify the person who prepares the certificates. The Historian shall keep a file of final Application papers of all members of the Colorado Society and shall maintain a list of Life Members. The Historian shall make a formal report to the Society members semi-annually. He or she shall maintain a reference library of General Society books, ordering new publications as they are issued.

Sec. 8. The Surgeon shall be a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Colorado and shall carry out the orders of the Governor.

Sec. 9. The Counselor shall be an attorney at law, admitted to practice by the Colorado Supreme Court. He or she shall render legal aid and opinions upon matters pertaining to the Society when requested to do so by the Governor or the Board of Assistants.

Article V.

Committees.

Sec. 1. The Board of Assistants shall have general charge and direction of the affairs of the Society. The Board shall fill vacancies among the officers for the balance of the term.

Sec. 2. Special committees appointed by the Governor for specific purposes shall have authority to fulfill such assignments.

Article VI.  
Dues and Fees.

Sec. 1. Upon filing a preliminary application, all applicants shall pay an initiation fee. Annual dues shall be payable January first for the ensuing year. Members admitted after July first will pay the initiation fee, and one-half the annual dues. The amount of the annual dues and the initiation fee shall be determined by the Board of Assistants.

Sec. 2. Fees shall be determined by the Board of Assistants and shall include the following: Initiation, Supplemental, Transfer In, Transfer Out, Dual Membership, Life Membership, Junior Membership, Junior Life Membership, and Reinstatement.

Sec. 3. Any member whose annual dues remain unpaid for a period of one year shall be dropped from the rolls unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Assistants.

Section 3A. Former members who were dropped for non-payment of dues and desire reinstatement to active membership shall pay a fee to be determined by the Board of Assistants plus two years' dues at the amount currently in effect for other active members.

Sec. 4. Any member upon making a one-time payment for an amount equal to fifteen times the prevailing annual dues rate as provided for in Section 1 of this Article VI may become a Life Member exempt from further payment of dues.

Sec. 5. The fee for Junior Membership shall be determined by the Board of Assistants paid upon being enrolled as a Junior Member and no further dues or admission fee shall be required from such Junior Member until transfer to Regular Membership at which time he or she shall pay the annual dues as required in Section 1 of this Article VI, providing such Junior Member makes transfer to Regular Membership before reaching the age of 25 years. The fee for Junior Life Membership is payable at one time in an amount equal to fifteen times the prevailing annual dues rate for Regular Membership as provided for in Section 1 of this Article VI.

Sec. 6. Members filing supplemental papers shall pay a fee determined by the Board of Assistants for each additional line.

Sec. 7. Former members who resigned in good standing and who desire reinstatement to active membership shall pay a fee determined by the Board of Assistants plus current dues.

Sec. 8. The fiscal year of the Society shall be the calendar year.

Sec. 9. The books of the Treasurer shall be audited annually by a committee appointed by the Governor.

Article VII.

Amendments.

Sec. 1. These By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Society, provided that a proposed amendment first be recommended by the Board of Assistants. The Secretary shall send out with the notice of the regular or special meeting at which such proposed amendment or amendments are to be acted on, a copy of all such proposed amendments. A majority vote of all the members present shall be required for the adoption of any amendment.

Sec. 2. Any section of these By-Laws may be suspended for a special purpose at any time by unanimous vote of the members present at a meeting of the Society.

Adopted - May 13, 2000