

Colorado Mayflower Society Constitution

Preamble

Whereas, Our ancestors, passengers on the “Mayflower,” landed in December 1620, at Plymouth, New England; and

Whereas, They came to settle in a new land and to found a new home and government, for the benefit of themselves and their posterity; and

Whereas, After struggles and hardships, which in the first year after their landing carried off one-half of their number and necessitated years of continued bravery and fortitude against innumerable trials of the severest kind; and

Whereas, Their acts and example have been instrumental in the establishment of Civil and Religious Liberty throughout this land,

Therefore, This Society is formed by lineal descendants of that band of Pilgrims, to preserve their memory, their records, their history, and all facts relating to them, their ancestors, and their posterity.

Article I. Name.

The name of this Society shall be “The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Colorado.”

Article II. Membership.

Sec. 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; provided, however, that no person shall be eligible for General Society or Colorado Society 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 other treasonable practices; or who is not of good moral character; and the Colorado Society shall have the right to expel from its membership any person for any of these causes.

Sec. 2. Such applicants for membership will be accepted in accordance with the procedures of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. They shall pay the initiation fees and dues and comply with the conditions in the Constitution and By-laws.

Sec. 3. Juniors of any age up to eighteen (18) years are eligible for Junior Membership, which may continue until the age of twenty-five (25) years, in accordance with the provisions of this section and the By-laws.

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 State Historian and the Historian General.

A State and General Number shall be assigned to each Junior Life Member and to the other Junior Members when they become Regular Members. Junior State Numbers may be assigned to Junior Members, but no Regular State Number shall be assigned to a Junior Member, other than a Junior Life Member.

No Junior Member and no Life Member under the age of eighteen (18) years may vote or hold office in any State Society or in the General Society.

Only Life Members and Regular Members shall be assessed a per capita tax by the General Society.

Article III.

Officers and Board of Assistants.

Sec. 1. The officers of this Society shall be a Governor, Deputy Governor, Captain, Elder, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Assistant Historian, Surgeon, Counselor. The officers and seven assistants shall compose the Board of Assistants.

Sec. 2. The duties, powers, and privileges of the officers and assistants of the Society shall be regulated by the By-Laws, so long as they are consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of the General Society.

Sec. 3. The Officers and Board of Assistants shall not be personally liable for monetary damages, with the exception of illegal acts or illegal omissions, to the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Colorado or to its members.

Article IV.

Termination of Membership.

Sec. 1. Any member whose annual dues remain unpaid for a period of one year shall be dropped from the rolls.

Sec. 2. The Board of Assistants may, on a two-thirds vote, drop any member shown to be prejudicial to the Society.

Article V.

Meetings.

Sec. 1. The Annual Meeting shall be held in metropolitan Denver on or about the twenty-first day of November in each year, at the time and date fixed by the Board of Assistants.

Sec. 2. All other meetings of the Society shall be held at such times and places as may be decided upon by the Board of Assistants, but this section shall not be construed as prohibiting the

Governor, or such a specified number of members as may be determined by the By-Laws, from calling special meetings.

Sec. 3. The number of members which shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Society, and all other necessary details not herein provided for, shall be regulated by the By-Laws.

Sec. 4. Every action taken by the Society at any regular or special meeting shall be binding upon all of its members, providing such meeting shall have been called and notice thereof given in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the By-Laws.

Article VI.
By-Laws.

The Society shall have the power and authority to ordain, establish, alter and repeal the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations for its government.

Article VII.
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 Society, and the words, "Plymouth, 1620," and "Colorado, 1906."

Article VIII.
Certificate, Insignia, Etc.

The certificate, insignia, rosette and flag shall be those selected and approved by the General Society, with, when possible, the name of our State and the date or our organization appearing upon them.

Article IX.

The names of those selected as a Board of Managers, elsewhere referred to as the Board of Assistants for the first year of the existence of this Society are: Joel Frederick Vaile, Horace Gray Lunt, William Kossuth McAllister, Rev. Allen Shaw Bush, Edward Reynolds Steuart, Margaret Alice Packard, Mrs. Charles Brewer Kountze, Victor Clifton Alderson, Mrs. Walter Scott Cheesman, Joshua Freeman Grozier, Mrs. Frank L. Woodward, Mrs. J. L. Garner, George Thomas Prince, Mrs. H. H. Seldomridge.

Article X.
Amendments.

Any proposed amendment to this Constitution must be presented in writing at a stated or special meeting of the society; it shall thereupon be read and filed with the Secretary. 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 two-thirds vote of all the members present shall be required for the adoption of any amendment.

Article XI
Statement of Tax-Exempt Status

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Colorado is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and/or scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Colorado shall not carry on 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 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law) or (b) by organization contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.)

Article XII
Dissolution Clause

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Colorado may be dissolved only with authorization by the Board of Assistants given at a special meeting called for that purpose and with subsequent approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active Members (as determined by the Historian.) Upon dissolution or other termination of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Colorado, after payment in full of all its debts, obligations, and necessary final expenses, or after making adequate provision therefore, all remaining assets of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Colorado shall be distributed to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, provided that the General Society of Mayflower Descendants shall be a tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code at the time of such dissolution. In the event that the General Society of Mayflower Descendants is no longer a tax-exempt organization at that time, the assets shall be distributed to the Mayflower Society House Endowment Fund.

Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed by the Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the Society is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Adopted - May 30, 2009