

Constitution and By-Laws

Vermont Society  
Of  
Mayflower Descendants

## CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS

This is a complete text of the Constitution and By-laws with all changes through October 2017.

### CONSTITUTION

#### ARTICLE I

##### Name

The name of the Society shall be the "Vermont Society of Mayflower Descendants".

#### ARTICLE II

##### Object

Section 1. To perpetuate to a remote posterity the memory of our Pilgrim Ancestors. 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 advancements of the Christian faith, and honor 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 our continuity. To transmit the spirit, the purity of purpose and steadfastness of will of the Pilgrim Ancestors to those who shall come after us, and undiminished heritage of liberty and law.

Section 3. The Society is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes by which means we further our heritage of freedom.

#### ARTICLE III

##### Membership

Section 1. A lineal descendant, over eighteen years of age, of any passenger on the voyage of the Mayflower which terminated at Plymouth, New England, in December 1620 shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Provided, however, that no person shall be eligible for membership who is pledged to or advocates the overthrow of the Government of the United States, or who has been guilty of other treasonable practices or who is not of good moral character.

Section 3. Any person over the age of 18, whose lineage is approved by the Historian General is eligible for Life

Membership after having paid his/her first year of dues.

Section 4. Any member may hold membership in more than one state Society.

Section 5. Junior membership is an honorary designation for relatives of present members to 18 years old who can prove their connection to an established lineage. Membership does not constitute validation of the lineage by the Historian General. No other memberships will be granted on a lineage the Historian General has proven incorrect.

#### ARTICLE IV

##### Board of Assistants

Section 1. The Board of Assistants shall consist of the Officers of the Society and six others who shall be known as Assistants.

Section 2. The Officers shall be: Governor, one or more Deputy Governors, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Elder, Captain, Surgeon and Counselor. Former Governors, Deputy Governor General, Assistant General, and any other General Society Officer, who are members of this Society may be ex-officio voting members of the Board of Assistants.

#### ARTICLE V

##### Meetings

There shall be two regular business meetings of the Society held each year. The annual meeting to be on the Fourth Saturday in October and the semi-annual meeting to be held on the Fourth Saturday in June. Time and place, and under unusual circumstances the date, may be changed, as determined by the Board of Assistants.

#### ARTICLE VI

##### Seal

The seal of the Vermont Society shall contain a representation of a sailing vessel of the seventeenth century, and the words "Plymouth 1620" and "Vermont 1927".

## ARTICLE VII

### Certificates, Insignia, etc

The certificate, insignia, rosette, and flag shall be those selected and approved by the General Society with the name of this Society and the date of its organization appearing thereon.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Amendment

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present at any duly convened meeting of the Society, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been mailed to each member at least ten days prior to the meeting.

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I

#### Membership

Section 1. Every application for membership shall be made on a preliminary application blank furnished by the Vermont Society. Such application shall bear the original signature of the applicant and two members of the Vermont Society, who will vouch for the applicant.

Section 2. Lineage blanks will be issued to the applicant upon receipt of the preliminary application and entrance fee.

Section 3. If lineage papers are not filled out and returned to the Historian within nine months, the preliminary approval is void. Under unusual circumstances and by approval of the Board of Assistants, this time may be extended for three months.

Section 4. No person shall become a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants until his or her line of descent has been verified and approved by the Historian General.

Section 5. A person in good standing in another State Society, wishing to transfer to our Society must obtain from the Historian General or the State Historian from where he transfers, a copy of all his lineage papers to file with the Vermont Society Historian.

Section 6. Requests for transfer or resignation shall be presented to an officer in writing, and if all indebtedness has been liquidated, shall take effect at once and a certificate of good standing will be issued. Reinstatement at any time with payment of current year's dues.

Section 7. The Board of Assistants may, on a two-thirds vote, drop any member shown to be prejudicial to the Society. Appeal may be made to the Society as a whole. A majority vote of the Society members present at a duly warned meeting shall sustain the Board of Assistants decision.

Section 8. Friends of the Vermont Mayflower Society is an honorary designation for those persons who are interested and supportive of the mission of the Society and are otherwise ineligible. Membership may be conferred without fee or a person may fill out an application and pay a fee. Friends will be ineligible for voting rights.

### ARTICLE II

#### Election of Officers

Section 1. The Board of Assistants shall at its regular semi-annual meeting appoint a nominating committee of five members of the Society, which committee shall name candidates for the offices to be filled at the annual meeting. The slate named by the nominating committee shall be mailed to each member of the Society at least ten days before the annual meeting. Any member of the Society may also be placed in nomination for any office to be filled, by five members of the Society, but all such nominations must be communicated to the Secretary by a notice in writing, signed by the members making the nomination, before the annual meeting. No person shall be eligible to be nominated or elected to the office of Governor or Deputy Governor who has not served in some other position on the Board of Assistants.

Section 2. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting to serve for a term of three years, the first such election to take place at the annual meeting in 1978. The term of the Assistants are to be staggered so that two are elected each year for a three-year term. The persons elected shall enter upon the offices immediately after the meeting at which they were chosen, and hold the same until the

close of the third annual meeting or until the election of their successors.

Section 3. Election shall be by ballot, a plurality vote of members present shall determine the choice, except that, where there is only one candidate for an office, the ballot may be dispensed with by a unanimous voice vote.

### ARTICLE III

#### Duties of Officers

Section 1. The Governor, or in his/her absence, a Deputy Governor, or in their absence, a Chairperson Pro Tempore, shall preside at all meetings of the Vermont Society and of the Board of Assistants. The Governor shall appoint all committees and an Auditor, ratified by the Board of Assistants. The Governor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and shall perform all the usual duties of the office.

Section 2. A Deputy Governor shall exercise all the functions of the office of Governor during his/her absence or disability. In the case of a vacancy in the office of Governor by death or otherwise, the Deputy Governor will succeed to that office for the remainder of the term.

Section 3. The Secretary shall record the proceedings of the Society and the Board of Assistants; shall give due notice of all meetings of the Society and the Board; shall have custody of the seal and such records as are not specifically in charge of other officers; shall in general perform all duties usually appertaining to such office; shall with the Governor certify all acts and orders of the Vermont Society. The Secretary shall conduct correspondence; have charge of mailing the "Green Mountain Pilgrim" and shall perform such other secretarial duties as the Society or office requires.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall 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 monies payable to the Society; to make all necessary disbursements approved by the Finance Committee and/or authorized by the Board of Assistants. The Treasurer will present an audited account of all monies received and disbursed at the annual

meeting and report the condition of the treasury when requested by the Governor or Board.

Section 5. The Historian shall keep a record of all facts in connection with the Society which may be deemed of historic value; shall after receipt of approved application, issue lineage papers and upon completion and found correct, will forward to the Historian General for approval and assignment of General Number; shall assign State Number and have charge of issuing certificates of membership; shall keep a complete list of the members and all lines of descent filed by them; shall have custody of all historical, geographical and genealogical books, papers and manuscripts required to aid in research for lineage applicants; shall make and keep up to date an inventory of all items belonging to the Society that are in the Historian's custody, with a copy furnished the Governor and Secretary; shall keep all items belonging to the Society in metal files furnished by the Society and items will be marked as "Property of VT. Mayflower Society". Any correspondence relating to membership shall be done by the Historian. The Historian will make a report in writing at each annual meeting. The Historian will receive a fee for copying lineage papers.

Section 6. The Elder shall officiate when called upon at any meeting of the Society and Board meetings; shall send the Society's message of condolence to the family of a deceased member; shall conduct a Memorial Service at each annual meeting; shall have been ordained as an elder, bishop, minister, or deacon of a Christian Church.

Section 7. The Captain shall carry out all orders of the Governor; shall be responsible for the proper care and preservation of the Flags and see that they are properly displayed at all meetings and other occasions requiring them; shall act as Marshall at parades and on occasions of ceremony.

Section 8. The Surgeon shall be a health care professional; shall be under orders of the Governor and Board of Assistants.

Section 9. The Counselor shall be an Attorney-At-Law; shall render legal advice and opinions upon matter pertaining to the Society when requested to do so by the Governor or Board of Assistants.

Section 10. The Assistants shall aid the officers in the performance of their duties and shall in most instances chair a standing committee.

Section 11. The Board of Assistants shall have general charge and direction of the affairs of the Vermont Society; shall fill vacancies among the officers for the unexpired term and shall nominate the Deputy Governor General and Assistant General to serve on the General Society Board.

#### ARTICLE IV Committees

The Board of Assistants may call for these or any other ad hoc committees should there be sufficient need or interest; Membership, Junior Membership, Finance, Publicity, Arrangements, Hospitality and Research.

#### ARTICLE V Meetings

Section 1. In addition to the regular meetings, Special Meetings of the Vermont Society may be held at any specific time and place at the call of the Governor, or a written request of ten members. The object of such special meeting must be stated in the notice.

Section 2. The Board of Assistants may hold business meetings at such time and place called by the Governor or on written request by three members of the Board.

Section 3. At least five days' notice in writing shall be mailed of all meetings of the Board of Assistants and ten days' notice of all meetings of the Society.

Section 4. At all regular or special meetings of the Society, twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. At all meetings of the Board of Assistants, seven of the members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. The order of business at all stated meetings of the Society shall be:

- Calling the meeting to order
- Prayer by the Elder
- Presentation of colors
- Reading of the Compact
- Minutes of the last meeting

- Communications
- Reports by officers
- Reports by committees
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Roll call of descendants
- Election of officers (annual meeting only)
- Benediction
- Adjournment

#### ARTICLE VI Entrance Fees and Dues

Section 1. The entrance fees and current year's dues shall be submitted with the application. If the State Historian judges a lineage cannot be proven, dues as well as the Historian General's fee will be returned to the applicant. If the Historian General rejects a lineage, the applicant's annual dues will be returned.

Section 2. Entrance fees and annual dues shall be set by the Board of Assistants. Dues are payable in advance for the year beginning 1 January. Any member whose annual dues remain unpaid for one year will be dropped from the rolls. The Treasurer is required to send at least one delinquent notice. Members may be reinstated at the direction of the Board of Assistants and payment of all dues in arrears.

Section 3. Life Membership and supplemental lineage fees shall be set by the Board of Assistants.

Section 4. An applicant for membership in this Society who is already a member of another State Society shall be exempt from entrance fee, but will pay annual or life dues.

Section 5. All annual dues received from new members and transfers after 1 September shall cover dues till 31 December of the following year.

Section 6. Honorary members of the Friends of the Mayflower Society are admitted without charge. Others must pay an application fee which is set by the Board of Assistants. If any Friends would like a subscription to the Mayflower Quarterly, the fee, set by the Board of Assistants, is due prior to December 31, for the following year.

## ARTICLE VII

### Funds

All donations and legacies

unless otherwise specified by donor, and one-half of the total Life Membership fee, shall be put into a Permanent Fund, together with such other sums as the Board of Assistants may appropriate for that purpose. None of the principal of the Permanent Fund shall be expended for any purpose until a resolution authorizing such expenditure shall have been proposed and adopted by the Society in the same form and manner as an amendment to the Constitution. The other half of the Life Membership fee shall be put into the General Fund.”

## ARTICLE VIII

### “The Green Mountain Pilgrim”

The Society shall publish a newsletter at least two times a year, to be called “The Green Mountain Pilgrim”.

## ARTICLE IX

### Rules of Order

Roberts Rules of Order, revised, shall govern the officers and action of the Vermont Society, except when contrary to this Constitution and By-Laws, and the Constitution and By-Laws of the General Society.

## ARTICLE X

### Amendments or Alterations

Amendments, alterations, additions or deletions to these By-Laws shall be made in the same manner as amendments and changes to the Constitution.

## Article XI

### Dissolution

In the event of dissolution of the Vermont Society of Mayflower Descendants, any remaining assets and records will be handed over to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. If the General Society of Mayflower Descendants is not in existence, then any assets shall be handed over to a non-profit organization whose mission is education.