

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

of the

General Society

of

Mayflower Descendants

Founded January 12, 1897



Incorporated under the laws of the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, February 19, 1923

(Including Amendments through the 39th General Congress, September 2011)

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 State** 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.

** Whenever the word "State" occurs in the Constitution and Bylaws of this Society, it shall be held to include within its meaning the District of Columbia, the Territories and the Dependencies of the United States, or any foreign country or Province, or group of Provinces of Canada.

ARTICLE III – ORGANIZATION

Section 1: Members The General Society of Mayflower Descendants shall consist of the State Societies now existing and such other State 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 State Societies, each State 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 that 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 ex-officio 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,

[ART. III, Section2c cont-d]

Assistant Governor General, Secretary General, Treasurer General, Historian General, Counsellor 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 State 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 State 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 State 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 State 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 State 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: Preliminary Application Every application for membership in a State Society shall be made on a preliminary application blank provided by such Society. Such application shall bear the autograph signature of the candidate

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 State 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 State Society. And no person shall be a member of a State 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 State 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 State Society who shall make a request through a State 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 State Society, and, if so, shall be eligible to represent such State Societies as a delegate to a General Congress.

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

- a. **Certificate of Good Standing** If the application for transfer is acted upon favorably by the State 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 State 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 State Society to which transfer is requested.
- b. **Fees for Transfer by Transferring State Society** The State 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 State Society** When a State Society accepts a transferred member, it shall make such arrangements as to entrance fees and current dues as it may deem equitable.
- d. **State and General Society Numbers** When a State Society accepts a transferred member, it shall assign a State 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 State 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 State Number assigned to such member. Whereupon the Historian General shall transmit such information to the transferring State 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 State Society.
- g. **Re-instatement of a former State Society Member** A former member of a State Society may be re-instated in said State Society by complying with such provisions governing like cases, as said State Society may have established. However, no former member of a State Society, who has been dropped from said State Society for non-payment of dues, may become a member of another State Society until re-instated in the same State 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 State Society, shall, in every case, retain the General Number originally assigned by the Historian General. Should such former member become a member of a State Society other than the State Society of which he, or she, was originally a member, the Secretary of such State Society shall, within five days, notify the Historian General of the date of election and of the new State Society Number assigned to such member.

[ART. IV, Section 7 cont-d]

- h. Refusal of Transfer and Right of Appeal** No State Society on grounds of lineage only shall deny to a member in good standing of any other State 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 State 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. State 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 State 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 State 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 State 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 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 for transfer from Junior to Regular Membership.
- d. Junior Membership Numbers** 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 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 State 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 – ELECTION OF GENERAL OFFICERS

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.

Section 2: DGG & AG Nominated by the State Society The General Congress shall elect to the offices of Deputy Governors General and Assistants General, only those persons from each State Society who are members of said State Society, and who are nominated by their respective State Society or who are selected by the plurality vote of the delegates present representing said State Society at the General Congress. If a State

[ART. V, Section 2 cont-d]

Society is not represented at the General Congress, the General Congress may elect for Deputy Governor General and Assistant General of the unrepresented State Society, members nominated by that State Society for the two positions.

Section 3: Members at Large Nominated from the Floor There shall be an Executive Committee to consist of the Governor General, Assistant Governor General, Secretary General, Treasurer General, Historian General, Counsellor General, and three members of the General Society (Executive Members at Large) at least one, with a maximum of two whom shall be from a State 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 State Society shall be considered to be the State Society that first received the initial application of the member, unless said member be an officer representing the additional State Society, said members to be elected by the Congress after nominations are made from the floor.

Section 4: Electoral Votes of a State Society The General Officers shall be elected at a regular meeting of the General Congress by a majority vote of the State Societies present and voting. Such State Society shall be entitled to one electoral vote for each two hundred members or any fractions thereof. The total electoral vote of any State Society shall not be more than five electoral votes or less than one electoral vote.

Section 5: 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: Secretary General It shall be the duty of the **Secretary General** to record the proceedings of the General Congress and General Board of Assistants; 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 or Governor General.

Section 3: 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 Board of Assistants, the Executive Committee and 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.

Section 4: 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 shall keep a record of all celebrations of the General Society and file all

[ART. VI, Section 4 cont-d]

historical documents and papers, and do any other work assigned him by the General Board of Assistants. The Historian General shall be the keeper of the Seal of the General Society.

Section 5: 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. He shall have been ordained as an elder, bishop, minister or deacon of a Christian Church.

Section 6: Captain General The **Captain General** shall carry out all orders of the Governor General or the General Congress, and act as Marshal at parades and on occasions of ceremony.

Section 7: Surgeon General The **Surgeon General** shall be duly licensed to practice medicine. The Surgeon General shall perform such duties as are prescribed by the Governor General and Board of Assistants.

Section 8: 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 Governor General, General Officers or by the General Board of Assistants.

ARTICLE VII – GENERAL CONGRESS

Section 1: Members

- a. **Membership (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 State Societies, each State Society being entitled to one Delegate for every fifty members or majority fraction thereof.
- b. **Membership Count to Determine the Number of Delegates** The number of delegates that shall represent each State 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 State Society shall notify the Secretary General of the membership of that date, so that such notification will be received no later than July fifteenth.
- c. **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.
- d. **Minimum Number of Delegates** Each organized State 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 State 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 State

[ART. VII, Section 4 cont-d]

Society shall be entitled to one electoral vote for each two hundred members or any fraction thereof. The total electoral vote of any State 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 State Societies, a vote shall be taken by the General Congress on any matter, by a roll call of the State Societies.

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 The order of business of the General Congress shall be determined by the Governor General, but shall 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
- Reading of the Minutes of the last General Congress
- Report from the Secretary General
- Report from the Treasurer General
- Report from the Historian General
- Report from the Counsellor General
- Report from the General Board of Assistants
- Reports from Committees
- Reports from State 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 Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

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 ex-officio members of the General Board of Assistants during their lifetime and membership in good standing, shall constitute the General Board of Assistants.

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,

[ART. VIII, Section 3 cont-d]

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, 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 State 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 Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

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 or removal of a General Officer may be filled by the General Board of Assistants 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 State 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 State Society to comply with these provisions, the vacancy may be filled by the General Board of Assistants.

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 General Board of Assistants 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, 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 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.

[ART. IX cont-d]

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.

ARTICLE X – COMMITTEES

Section 1: Nominating 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* by April first of the year during which the General Congress is to be held. They shall be published in the June issue of the *Mayflower Quarterly* for that 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. The committee may act by mail or telephone ballot. Members of the committee may not be nominated for office.

ARTICLE XI – DUTIES OF A STATE SOCIETY

Section 1: Authority to Form a State Society The General Board of Assistants may at any time authorize the formation of a Society of Mayflower Descendants in any State, not already having a Society of Mayflower Descendants, whenever twenty members residing in such State, who are in good standing in their respective State 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 State Society When there shall be fewer than twenty members in a State, who are desirous of forming a State 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 State 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

[ART. XI, Section 3 cont-d]

good standing of each person whose name appears on the petition shall have been certified in writing by the Secretary of his State Society.

Section 4: Charter Void if State Society not Formed If the applicants to whom a charter may be granted do not meet and organize a State 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 State 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 State Society shall be suspended until at least twenty applicants, residing in that State, 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, subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Society.

Section 6: State Society Forms its Own Constitution & Bylaws All State 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 State 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 State Society from which it was received.

Section 9: DGG & AG Nominated by a New State Society When a new State 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 State Society wishes to create and maintain, within that State, 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 State Societies; they are created under the authority of the State 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 State 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 State 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 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 State Society; or permitting persons not members of a State Society to act as officers or significantly control the activities of a State Society.

ARTICLE XII: FEES AND REPORTS REQUIRED OF A STATE SOCIETY

Section 1: Annual Reports Each State 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

[ART. XII, Section 1 cont-d]

making any suggestions which it may deem profitable for the General Society to consider.

Section 2: Annual Assessment Each State Society shall pay to the General Society, not later than May 1st in each year, a per capita assessment of eleven dollars (\$11.00), based on its previous membership as of December 31st of the previous year, but there shall not be included in such membership, in computing such assessment, any member who has been excused by his or her State Society from paying the annual dues on account of his or her being actively engaged in the armed forces of his or her country of allegiance, and no other assessment shall be levied except at a regular session of the General Congress and by a two thirds vote of all the State Societies represented and voting at that session of the General Society, such vote being taken by State Society.

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

Section 4 Lineage Assessment. Each State Society shall pay to the General Society, upon receipt of the billing statement in each year, the sum of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for each original lineage paper and each supplemental line of descent, which it has filed with the Historian General, for examination, during the preceding calendar year; effective January 1, 2009.

Section 5: Suspending State Society for non compliance with this Article If, in any year, any State 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 State 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 State Society shall stand suspended until such requirement has been complied with. Upon the suspension of such State Society the Secretary General shall thereupon notify the Governor General, the Historian General, the Treasurer General and the Secretary of each State Society of such suspension. Until its reinstatement, such suspended State Society will not be regarded as affiliated with the General Society. Upon the reinstatement of such suspended State 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 State Societies shall adopt this Seal, with the words "Plymouth 1620" and the name of their own State 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 State 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 State Society, shall be used only by officers, or duly appointed committees of the General Society or of any State 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,

[ART. XIII, Section 4 cont-d]

selected and approved by the General Society. These shall be the same for all the State 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 State 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 State 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 State Society at least five months before such session.

Section 2: Vote Required to Amend A two thirds vote of the State 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 State Society, and each State Society shall have one vote. A majority of the delegates present representing such State Society, with the General Officers present, belonging to such State Society, shall be required to determine the vote of such State 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 State 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

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