

BY-LAWS
Orange County Colony
of
Mayflower Descendants in the State of
California Inc.

Article I
Name Authority

Section 1. The name of this Colony shall be the Orange County Colony of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California, Inc.

Section 2. The Orange County Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California, Inc. has been organized as a local Colony, by means of its Charter granted by said California State Society, for educational purposes and to promote the interests of the California State Society and the General Society in this area. At all times and in all things this colony shall conform to and be governed by the Articles and By-Laws of the California State Society, as they now are or hereafter may be altered or amended, together with such actions as may be taken and such policies as may be adopted by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, together with the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the General Society not in conflict therewith.

Article II
Purpose

Consistent with this Colony's intent to remain a 501-C-3 tax exempt entity, its purposes shall be the following:

Section 1. To perpetuate to a remote posterity the memory of the Pilgrim Fathers and Mothers and to transmit the spirit, the purity of purpose, and steadfastness of will of the Pilgrim Fathers and Mothers to those who shall come after us, an undiminished heritage of liberty and law.

Section 2. To maintain and defend the principle of civil and religious liberty, as set forth in the Mayflower Compact, "for the Glorie of God, and advancement of the Christian Faith and honor of our Country" by means such as observing "Compact Day" each November, at which time the Mayflower Compact shall be read.

Section 3. To cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American freedom and to oppose any theories or actions that threatens their continuity.

Article III

Membership

Section 1. Every member of this Colony, without exception, shall be a direct descendant, so proved to the satisfaction of the State Society and the General Society, from some passenger on the ship "Mayflower" in her voyage ending at Plymouth in December, 1620. Applicants and members may be of either sex and may reside within or without the State of California. No member of the California State Society residing within the limits of a County or State, in which a Colony is formed, shall be excluded from membership in the Colony. Anyone who ceases to be a member in good standing in the State Society (e.g., by reason of resignation, nonpayment of dues, suspension, expulsion, or otherwise) shall simultaneously cease to be eligible for membership in the Colony.

Article IV

Nomination and Election of Officers

Section 1. The Executive Board of the Colony shall be the following officers chosen from among its members in good standing and shall be as follows: (1) Governor, (2) Deputy Governor, (3) Recording Secretary, (4) Corresponding Secretary, (5) Treasurer, (6) Elder, (7) Captain, (8) Historian, (9) Colony Membership Chair and (10) Liaison Officer (Delegate) to the State Board of Assistants. All Past Governors of the Colony shall be Honorary Governors for life with a vote on the Executive Board.

Section 2. At the November meeting of odd numbered years, a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members shall be elected by the Colony. At least one past governor shall be included on the Nominating Committee. The Nominating committee shall be responsible for nominating one candidate for each office listed in Section 1, except the Delegate who shall be appointed by the Colony Governor. No member of the Executive Board may serve on the Nominating Committee, excepting past governors.

Section 3. No member shall be eligible for the office of Colony Governor who has not previously served on the Executive board. No member shall be eligible for office that has not been an active member of the colony for at least one year. Election shall be by ballot for each office when there is more than one nominee. Before voting for any officer, opportunity must be given for nominations from the floor, provided the consent of the nominee shall first have been obtained. Should there be only one nominee for each office, the slate may be approved/elected by voice vote of the majority of members in attendance. Officers are limited to two consecutive two-year terms. However, if any office is unable to be resolved by nomination, succession is authorized by a vote of the members, or until an eligible nominee is nominated and elected in a Special election held at any regular meeting of the membership. A term shall be defined as two years.

Section 4. The Colony Governor shall appoint a person or persons at the April meeting to review the Treasurer's books and report at the next meeting.

Section 5. In case of a vacancy in the office of Colony Governor, the Vice (or Assistant) Colony Governor shall become Colony Governor. The Executive Board shall fill vacancies in other offices until the next regular election.

Article V

Duties of Officers

Section 1. **The Colony Governor** shall preside at all meeting of the Colony and of the Executive Board. The Colony Governor shall have the option to appoint members to various committee chairmanships which shall include, but are not limited to, Parliamentarian, Editor, Auditor, Gift Table, Education, Publicity and Web Master and shall be ex officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. Members must agree to serve prior to the appointment. Should a vacancy occur, the Governor shall appoint a replacement. All appointments shall be announced at the meeting in which the Governor is installed.

Section 2. **The Colony Deputy Governor** shall preside over Colony meetings and gatherings in the excused absence of the Colony Governor; shall assume all duties of Governor in the event that the current Governor can no longer serve or exercise his or her duties as Governor throughout the rest of the term. In that event, the role of Colony Deputy Governor shall be filled by appointment and approval by the OC Colony Executive Board at a specially called meeting for such purpose and shall fulfill the duties for the remainder of the term. Also, the Colony Deputy Governor shall act as program chairperson; shall coordinate all membership meetings for the Colony to include being responsible for securing location and guest speakers, providing from the membership hosts, whose duties shall be to greet members and guests and set up and tear down the meetings; and shall aid the Governor of the Colony as the Governor deems necessary. In coordination with the Colony Membership Chair, will prepare New Member Packets and welcome all new Members officially into the Colony at Colony Membership Meetings.

Section 3. **The Recording Secretary** shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Colony meetings and of the Executive Board and shall keep a record of the Colony members. Copies of the minutes of the Colony meetings shall be sent to the State Recording Secretary within ten days after the meeting. The Recording Secretary will also have the duty of conducting the Roll Call of Ancestors at meetings.

Section 4. **The Corresponding Secretary** shall be responsible for maintaining the mailing list and shall be responsible for sending the Colony newsletter to the members. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct such correspondence of the Colony as may not belong to the other officers or as may be requested by the Colony Governor.

Section 5. **The Elder** shall without delay, send notices of deaths or marriages to the State Elder giving the married name, State and National numbers, date of marriage, or death and perform all the other duties pertaining to the office, opening all meetings of the Colony with a reading of prayer and shall conduct such memorial services as the occasion may require. The Colony Elder shall communicate with members who are ill and shall keep a list of deceased members.

Section 6. **The Treasurer** shall collect and deposit all funds of the Colony and shall sign with the Colony Governor and Secretary the card required by the bank covering the Colony account, and shall pay all bills authorized by the Executive Board and signed by the Colony Governor and Treasurer. The Treasurer shall prepare and provide a Treasurer's report for each of the regular meetings and submit a full statement at the annual meeting in April.

Section 7. **The Historian** shall maintain former records, history books, photographic history of meetings of the Colony, advise of historically interesting items and provide a brief historical review of work at the annual meeting.

Section 8. The **Colony Membership Chair** shall serve as the Colony Registrar, maintaining the Colony Membership Roll in coordination with the State Membership Secretary and Colony Corresponding Secretary, to include updating the roll with added or removed members and keeping the State Membership Secretary up to date on changes in Colony members' contact information or status; shall serve as the primary contact of the State Historian or Assistant Historians, who may assign to the OC Colony any new applicants who reside within the Colony boundaries and shall welcome such new applicants to the organization and invite them to Colony events and help them complete their applications, if called upon; shall fulfill any other duties as requested by the Colony Governor. The Colony Membership Chair may serve as the head of a Colony Membership Committee of appointed or volunteer members in good standing within the Colony to welcome new and prospective members to the Colony, as deemed necessary.

Section 9. The **Colony Captain** shall act as the "Sergeant at Arms" of the Colony and shall help to provide security at all Colony Meetings, as deemed necessary; shall maintain and set up the official Colony Flag and Banner and the American Flag at all membership meetings; shall conduct the Pledge of Allegiance at all Colony Membership Meetings and Gatherings; shall help set up the public address system at the venues where meetings are conducted; shall maintain and keep record of all Colony property in his or her possession; and shall fulfill any other duties as requested by the Colony Governor.

Section 10. **The Colony Delegate** to the State Board of Assistants shall attend regularly scheduled meetings of the State Board of Assistants and shall report to the colony at its next meeting those items that would be of interest. The Colony Delegate shall be assisted by an Alternate Delegate to perform the duties of this office whenever the Delegate is unable to function, upon recommendation of the appointed Delegate, and be ratified by the membership at any regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 11. **The Executive Board** shall have authority over the affairs of the Colony in emergency matters between regularly scheduled Colony meetings and shall bring to the general membership such items of business, as it deems necessary. The Executive Board shall be subject to the orders of the Colony and none of its acts shall conflict with a duly held, lawful vote of Colony members.

Article VI

Duties of Committee Chair

Section 1. **The Parliamentarian** shall keep order to the order of business at all Colony meetings. Robert's Rules of Order (latest edition) shall guide

questions on Rules of Order and procedures and all rulings in the matter shall be final.

Section 2. **The Editor** shall publish the colony newsletter, *Scuttlebutt*, to inform members of upcoming meetings, listing time, place, fee for meals and where to send reservations. The editor may include information on recent activities and coming events, as well as tidbits of history about our Pilgrim Ancestors.

Section 3. **The Auditor** shall, prior to the annual meeting in April, conduct an audit of the treasurer's books for the preceding year and make a verbal report at the Annual Meeting and file a copy with the Recording Secretary. The Board shall move to correct any problems found in the audit. The Auditor does not have to be a member of the Colony.

Section 4. **The Gift Table Chair** shall: (1) make purchases, set prices, maintain and store inventory; (2) maintain records of sales (local and mail order) while maintaining sales tax collection records and mailing appropriate payment of State Sales Income Tax form to the State Board of Equalization prior to January 31 deadline; (3) set up and pack merchandise items at all meetings; (4) have merchandise marked and furnish cash box with sales tax chart, merchandise list and \$50 petty cash at all meetings; (5) log income from sales and forward monies to Colony Treasurer for deposit in Colony account; (6) Announce new items and select prizes and conduct raffles at each meeting; (7) obtain assistants to help with setup, packing and selling merchandise; (8) obtain approval from the Board for large purchases of merchandise; (9) obtain permission to take merchandise to sell at other Mayflower Society meetings; and (10) be answerable to the Executive Board.

Section 5. **The Education Chair** shall keep the Colony informed of existing and new items available to help educate the public about the Pilgrims, the Mayflower and their history.

Section 6. **The Publicity Chair** shall: (1) prepare announcements of meetings, giving time, place and program, contract information, fees for meals and forward to newspapers; and (2) take photos of events to be forwarded to the Colony Website, the *California Mayflower* and *Mayflower Quarterly*.

Section 7. **The Web Master** shall be in charge of the Colony Website and shall maintain current information regarding meetings, contacts and Society activities. The Colony Site shall be www.ocmayflower.org.

Article VII

Meetings

Section 1. Unless otherwise ordered by the Colony or the Executive Board, there shall be three (3) regular meetings annually to include a "Winter Membership Meeting" on an appropriate Saturday in February where regular Colony business takes place, an "Annual Spring Membership Meeting", held on an appropriate Saturday in April, where regular Colony business takes place, and the "Annual Compact Day Meeting", where regular Colony business takes place, which shall be held the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day in November, unless otherwise moved by affirmative Executive Board vote for valid reason

that affects scheduling. Other membership events, such as a Summer Picnic or Social, may be held as ordered by the Colony Executive Board.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the Colony Governor or at the request of any three of its members.

Section 3. The Annual Meeting shall be held in April for the purpose of hearing the written reports of Officers and Committee Chairmen and transacting any other business that may arise. In even-numbered years, the Annual Meeting shall include election and installation of new officers.

Section 4. Special meetings may be called by the Colony Governor or the Executive Board.

Section 5. Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum for Colony meetings and three (3) for Executive Board meetings.

Section 6. The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order (latest edition) shall govern the Colony in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws of the California State Society and the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Section 7. Board meetings may be conducted by telephone or other electronic communications media conference with seventy-two hours-notice. A quorum must be in attendance "on line" to consider and respond to any business transacted. Only the business for which the meeting was called may be transacted. Any business transacted shall be ratified at the next business meeting of the Colony.

Section 8. Any regular Membership Meeting held by the Colony may be held via the internet as voted upon by the Colony Executive Board, using any popular video conference software to comport with governmental requirements where any typical meeting normally held in person be held online. Any meeting that is so changed from in-person to online shall be announced via email and the Colony Newsletters, if adequate timing permits, to all members of the Colony and to give all members the opportunity to attend. This shall only be done as regulations require and shall not take the place of any regular meeting normally held in person.

Article VIII

Dues

Section 1. The per capita monies received from the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California, Inc., shall constitute the dues of this Colony. No other entrance fee or dues shall be required of any member, except as imposed by the California State Society. Other money needed shall be raised as decided by the Executive Board of the Colony, in accordance with the Bylaws of the California State Society.

Section 2. The annual dues shall be due and payable in advance, to the State Treasurer, on the first day of January of each year.

Section 3. A one-time payment, as set by the State Board of Assistants, shall constitute that person a Life Member. Life Members are exempt from payment of annual dues.

Article IX

Colony Scholarship

Section 1. Scholarships shall be awarded annually to college students, undergraduate or graduate level or a graduating high school senior who has a direct lineage connection, or shares a Mayflower blood line (i.e., niece, nephew, grandniece, grandnephew, cousin) with an Orange County Colony member in good standing for at least one year as of the date of the application.

Section 2. A Scholarship Committee of three shall be appointed to (a) encourage interest and contributions to the Colony Scholarship Fund; (b) recommend the amount of scholarships; (c) choose the essay theme; (d) distribute annual notification of scholarships to all members of the Colony by February 1 of each year; (e) call for applications to be mailed to the Committee chair by March 15; (f) appoint a committee of three judges to review the applications and essays for the winning recipients; and (g) Scholarship Committee chair shall notify the Executive Board of the winners and shall notify the winners and invite them to the Annual Meeting in April to receive the scholarships. If they cannot attend the meeting, the scholarship funds will be sent to them.

Article X

Amendments

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting [business] of the Colony by a two-thirds vote provided the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous meeting or mailed to membership not less than thirty days prior to the meeting. Unless otherwise provided for, prior to its adoption, or in the motion to adopt, an amendment shall become effective upon adjournment of the meeting at which it has been adopted.

Section 2. Any amendment adopted by the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California, Inc. or the General Society of Mayflower Descendants which affects these Bylaws shall be adopted by the Colony without notice of amendment.

Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of this Colony by such formal action of the Board of Assistants or of the membership of the Colony, or by operation of law or otherwise, the Executive Board shall first provide for the payment of all the outstanding debts and obligations of the Colony, shall deliver all books, records, genealogical papers, and all remaining assets of the Colony into the care, custody or control of the State Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of California, Inc., if it then is in existence and if said California State Society no longer is in existence, the Executive Board shall turn over all of said items and assets to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants if it then is in existence and is tax exempt under Section 501-c-3 of the Internal Revenue Code, but if it does not have such tax exempt status, to some other educational association having such tax exempt status. No funds, assets or monies of this

Colony shall at any time insure to the benefit of any individual member of the colony or any other person, nor shall any such funds, assets or monies be delivered to or divided up amongst said members at the time of the dissolution of the Colony, in as much as the property of this Colony is irrevocably dedicated to educational purposes.

Standing Rules

Section 1. The flag of the United States of America, Mayflower Flag, Mayflower Compact, and Colony Charter(s) shall be on display at all meetings of this Colony.

Section 2. Circularization of the Colony Members or solicitation from them at any meetings for any project, commercial or otherwise, not specified as Mayflower Society projects, shall be permitted only after the approval and consent of the Executive Board has been obtained.

Section 3. ORDER OF MEETING SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Salute to the Flag of the United States
2. Invocation by Elder or "Lord's Prayer", in concert
3. Singing of "America" or other patriotic song
4. Secretary's report of previous meeting.
5. Treasurer's report
6. Memorial Service (if applicable)
7. Roll Call of members and ancestors
8. Reading of correspondence and action thereon
9. Reports of Officers
10. Reports of Committees
11. Unfinished Business
12. New Business
13. Program – Place in order of business flexible with the consent of the Colony
14. Benediction
15. Adjournment

Section 4. The Colony shall provide a per diem to the Colony Governor, Colony Deputy Governor or other approved Colony Executive Board Member who may request assistance from the Colony to attend the Triennial Congress in Plymouth as an official State Delegate, representing the State of California. Such per diem shall be pre-approved by the Colony Executive Board before the Triennial Congress that occurs every three years in Plymouth and shall only be provided if the Colony has the appropriate funds available and shall not provide a hardship to the Colony. The Colony shall create a separate budget line item maintained by the Colony Treasurer and maintain funds raised for this purpose to support such per diems as voted upon by the Colony Executive Board.

Section 5. The OC Colony shall purchase for the outgoing Governor an "Orange County Colony Past Governor" medal from the GSMD store and shall have this medal presented upon the election of a new Governor. The first act of the incoming Governor shall be to present the outgoing Governor the "Past Governor" medal to honor his or her service to the Colony after the outgoing

Governor presents the new Governor the OC Colony Governor Medallion, Medal and gavel.

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The original bylaws as approved May 1975 with proposed revisions submitted by Virginia Miller, chairperson, and members Florence Anderson and Ben Clark of the Bylaws Committee were moved and carried at a subsequent colony meeting.

The bylaws amendments proposed by Frances Turner Diefenbach, chairperson, and members Donna Bennett Cole and Ralph Allen Cangson, were approved by the Executive Board on September 28, 1991; communicated to the membership in accordance with ARTICLE IX, Section 1, and moved and carried by the membership, with the exception of the proposed amendments to the Standing Rules, at a scheduled meeting in the Airporter Inn, Irvine, California on February 29, 1992.

The bylaws amendments and addition to Section 3 No. 6, Standing Rules proposed by June Lazich, chair, and members Donna Bennett Cole, Christopher Pinckney, Judy Swan, James Blauer, and Justine Boose, were approved by the Executive Board on September 22, 2001, communicated to the membership in accordance with the bylaws, and moved and carried by the membership at a scheduled meeting at the Holiday Inn, Costa Mesa, California on November 17, 2001.

The bylaws amendment to Article VII – Meetings, Section I, proposed by committee: Judy Swan, June Lazich, Donna Cole, and Jim Blauer and approved by the Executive Board by email was published in the February Scuttlebutt and membership voted unanimously on April 24, 2004, to adopt the amendment to have two meetings yearly and an annual picnic.

Revised bylaws April 26, 2008, Article IV, Section 2, Nominating Committee, change to November vote and add past governor: Section 4, Governor to appoint person to review treasurer's records: Article VII, Meetings, Section 7, Email clause. Maloney, Swan, Cole, Butler, Lazich.

Standing Rule No. 4 approved April 25, 2009 at the Annual Meeting allocating \$.25 per mile reimbursement for transportation of our Sales Table to other colonies. Former Standing Rule No. 4 renumbered as No. 5. Swan, Cole, Lazich, Callaway.

Revised bylaws April 25, 2009, Article VII Section 1 "Compact Day held the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day in November". Swan, Cole, Lazich.

Revised bylaws April 28, 2012 (May vote); Add Article IV Section 1 Past Governors Honoraries comply with State Bylaws; Article IV Section 3, Recording Secretary call Roll at meetings; Section 8, Colony Captain keep property record; Cole, Lazich, Swan

Revised bylaws April 20, 2013 (April vote); added Article IX Colony Scholarship; Lazich, Leedy

Revised bylaw Article IX Colony Scholarship November 23, 2013.

Proposed: Revised bylaw Article IX Colony Scholarship November 19, 2016.

Revised bylaws, July 18, 2020. (July Vote); Article IV-Section 1, name change to Deputy Governor and added Membership Chair; Article 5-Section 2, Name change to Deputy Governor and job description; Article V - Section 8, changed to Article V section 9, Colony Captain job description; Article V- Section 8 Added Colony Membership Chair and job description; Article VII- Section 1 Added February meeting as a business meeting and flexibility in scheduling meetings; Article VII- Section 8, added to adapt to Covid19 restrictions so we can have meetings on line; Standing Rule – Section 4 Strike completely as not needed; Standing rule-section 4 (New) Recognize need to support board members going to Triennial Congress in Plymouth; Standing Rule- Section 5 outgoing Colony Governor is presented a "Past Colony Governor Medal". All voted and passed on 7/18/20. Miller, Mandeville, Cole, Lazich

Membership Changes

Send all address, phone and/or email corrections to:

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