

**BY-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE STATE OF
SOUTH CAROLINA, INC.**

ARTICLE ONE-ORGANIZATION

- 1 The name of this organization shall be “The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of South Carolina, Inc.” (hereinafter known as “SMDSC”) This Society is a constituent society of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. (hereinafter known as “GSMD”)
- 2 The organization shall have a seal, which shall be in the following form.
- 3 Membership in the organization shall be granted as provided hereinafter.
- 4 Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government or to a state or local government or for a public purpose.

ARTICLE TWO-OBJECTS

The objects of SMDSC are for every active member to

- 1 Perpetuate the memory of *The Mayflower* passengers on the voyage that terminated at Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620.
- 2 To preserve the history of *The Mayflower's* voyage and its passengers for future generations.
- 3 To maintain and defend the principles of civil and religious liberty as set forth in *The Mayflower Compact*.
- 4 To cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American freedom, and to oppose any theory or action that threatens them.
- 5 To transmit the spirit, the purity of purpose and steadfastness of will of the Pilgrim Fathers and Mothers. To perpetuate the undiminished heritage of liberty and law to those who shall come after.
- 6 To discover, record and publish the ancestry of the Pilgrims, and the lines of their posterity, past and present.
- 7 To cooperate with GSMD and all its constituent societies.

8 To be known as an educational non-profit organization.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these article, this organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes under section 501 C3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of South Carolina, Inc. to preserve and educate the public as to the lives and legacies of the passengers who arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620 aboard *The Mayflower*.

ARTICLE THREE-MEMBERSHIP

All persons over eighteen (18) years of age, of any race or ethnicity, who are descended from a passenger on The Mayflower on the voyage which terminated at Plymouth, Massachusetts in December 1620, shall be eligible for regular membership in the Society. No person shall be eligible for membership who is pledged to or advocates the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States, or of any state or territory, or who has been found guilty of treasonable practices, or who is not of good moral character; and the Society shall have the right to expel from its membership any person for any of these causes.

It shall be the duty of the Board of Assistants (hereinafter BOA) to encourage membership, to approve procedural changes, and to fix the fees and dues for membership therein.

Membership Procedures

- 1 Each application for regular membership in the Society may be made on a preliminary application blank approved by the BOA, along with a non-refundable application fee to be established by the BOA. Any applicant for regular membership may request through the Historian, a copy of lineage papers from the office of the Historian General of GSMD. These shall be furnished upon payment of a fee to be established by the BOA.
- 2 After the preliminary application has been approved by the Historian, final application forms shall be issued to the applicant by the Historian.

The applicant may complete the final application papers and perform the required research before returning the completed application to the Historian, together with the required documentation and copies thereof, as well as all required fees. Any information or evidence submitted to the Society becomes the property of the GSMD and the SMDSC. If the signed copy of the application and check is not received by the Historian within a reasonable period as determined by the Historian, the Historian shall return all documents to the applicant without action.

- 3 No person shall be elected to membership in the Society until his or her line of descent has been approved by the Historian general of GSMD and the State Historian.
- 4 Any member in good standing in GSMD may make application on behalf of any person under eighteen (18) years of age who has a "*prima facie*" lineage based on his, her, or a family member's proven lineage. Such application may be approved and accepted by the BOA, provided all required fees and membership dues of such member are current and paid. The term "*prima facie*" shall mean that the potential junior member is related to a past or present member of GSMD by blood through the line through which such member was approved for membership in GSMD,
- 5 Any Junior member may, after attaining the age of eighteen (18) years of age, matriculate to regular membership upon submission of the usual lineage papers, with appropriate documentation. State and general members shall be assigned to each junior member upon approval by the Historian General and the SMDSC Historian. A Junior member may continue his or her junior status until he or she shall attain the age of twenty-five (25) years. A new applicant must seek regular membership status if he or she has already attained the age of eighteen (18) years. No Junior member shall have voting rights, the right to hold office, or other regular membership privileges.
- 6 Any member in good standing may resign from the Society. Any member having resigned in good standing may, upon payment of a

reinstatement fee established by the BOA, and payment of membership dues in arrears, re-activate membership in the Society.

- 7 Any member of the Society whose conduct is reasonable believed by the BOA to be contrary to the purposes of GSMD or SMDSC, or prejudicial to its interest, shall be subject to suspension or expulsion by the BOA. In the event charges of such conduct are made against a member of the Society in good standing, the BOA shall promptly appoint a special committee to hear evidence in support of the charges, and report its findings of fact and recommendations thereon to the BOA. The member against whom such charges are made shall be given not less than fifteen (15) days written notice of the time and place of the meeting of the BOA wherein such charges shall be considered, along with a written copy of the basis for such changes. Such written notice shall be sent by registered mail to the member's last known address. A member against whom such charges have been made shall have the right to appear at the hearing with or without counsel and present evidence in defense of the charges to the BOA. In order to suspend or expel a member, an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the BOA is required.
- 8 Any member whose annual dues remain unpaid for a period of two (2) months after becoming due and payable may be dropped from membership. The BOA may, by special resolution, extend the time for payment of dues.
- 9 Resignations shall be presented to the Corresponding Secretary in writing, and shall be effective upon receipt, provided such member is in good standing. A member in good standing is one whose dues, including those for the current year have been paid, and against whom no suspension or expulsion proceedings have been instituted.
- 10 Any member in good standing of another state society of Mayflower Descendants shall be eligible to transfer his or her membership to this Society.

Fees and Dues

- 1 A nonrefundable application processing fee, as determined by the BOA, shall be paid to the Society, by all applicants for membership in the Society, except those who are former members and those who are members of other state societies and who are in good standing with GSMD.
- 2 A fee, as determined by the BOA, shall be paid to the Society by approved members transferring from other state societies. The applicant shall also pay annual dues to SMDSC. A fee, as determined by the BOA, shall be paid to the Society by any member submitting a supplemental line for approval.
- 3 Unless otherwise determined by the BOA, annual dues shall be paid to the Society by all regular members. Life memberships will no longer be offered by the SMDSC; life memberships already in effect in SC will be honored. Emeritus Members who reached the age of eighty (80) by July 25, 2005 and paid dues for 5 years to the SMDSC, will not be required to pay future dues to either the GSMD or the SMDSC. Emeritus members who reach the age of eighty (80) after July 25, 2005 and paid dues for 5 years to the SMDSC will not be required to pay future dues to the SMDSC, but will be required to pay dues to the GSMD. Emeritus Membership awarded for service will follow the same guidelines; those who received the award prior to July 25, 2005 will not be required dues to either entity; those who receive the award after that date will be required to pay dues only to the GSMD.

ARTICLE FOUR-OFFICERS

- 1 The officers of the Society shall include a Governor, a Deputy Governor, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, an Historian, an Elder, a Counselor, a Deputy Governor General, and an Assistant Governor General.
- 2 The government of the Society shall be vested in a Board of Assistants which shall include the officers of the Society and three Assistants, an Education Assistant, a Junior Membership Assistant, and the Palmetto Log Editor. The officers and

assistants shall be voting members of the BOA and shall serve as directors of the corporation. All past governors of the Society shall be members of the BOA, but shall have no vote.

- 3 The duties, powers, and privileges of the officers and BOA are set forth hereinafter.
- 4 The term of office of each officer shall be three (3) years, or until a successor is elected and qualified. A person may not occupy the offices of Governor and Deputy Governor for more than two (2) consecutive terms. The officers and assistants of the Society shall be elected by a plurality vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting, or as soon thereafter as possible, and those elected shall assume office immediately after such election. Vacancies on the Board of Assistants may be filled by the Governor, with the approval of the BOA which approval shall be obtained as soon as possible following the appointment by the Governor.
- 5 The Governor, with the approval of the BOA, may remove any BOA from his office for failure to perform the duties required of his office, including but not limited to attendance at BOA and Society meetings, carrying out the directives of the Governor or the BOA,
- 6 The Governor, with the approval of the BOA, may appoint any member of the Society in good standing to fill the unexpired term of any BOA member who has resigned or been removed from office.
- 7 The BOA shall have the control and management of the business and affairs of the Society, and in addition to the powers and authorities by these bylaws conferred upon it, may exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things as are by law provided, and as are usually done by the board of directors of a corporation, subject to any regulations which may be made by the membership.

- 8 The BOA shall select the delegates and alternates of the Society who shall represent the Society at the meetings of the GSMD.

ARTICLE FIVE-DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- 1 The Governor shall act as the chief executive officer and head of the Society. The Governor shall preside at all meetings of the Society and at meetings of the BOA and shall be a member *ex officio* of all standing committees, except the nominating committee.
- 2 The Governor shall call all special of other meetings of the members of the Society and the BOA. In case the Governor shall at any time neglect or refuse to call a special meeting of the members when requested to do so by twenty (20) of the members, then and in such case said special meeting may be called by a majority of the BOA.
- 3 The Deputy Governor, in the absence of the Governor, shall preside at the meetings of the members of the Society and of the BOA in the absence, resignation, disability, or death of the Governor, the Deputy Governor shall exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the Governor until a new Governor shall be elected.
- 4 The Recording Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Society and of the BOA and shall record all proceedings thereof in a book kept for that purpose, and shall be the custodian of the seal of the Society.
- 5 The Corresponding Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Society and of the BOA, shall perform all duties which may be entrusted to him by the Governor of the BOA, shall be the official record keeper of the Society and shall maintain the current mailing addresses of all members and other contact information. The membership list maintained by the Corresponding Secretary is the property of the Society and shall not be released to any person without the express permission of the BOA.
- 6 The Treasurer shall keep full and correct accounts of the receipts and expenditures of the Society in books belonging to the Society, and shall deposit all monies and valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Society, and in such depositories as may be designated by the BOA, and shall give bond with sufficient security in such amount as

- may be required by the BOA for the faithful performance of such duties. The cost of such bond shall be paid by the Society. The Treasurer shall disburse funds of the Society as may be approved by the BOA, obtaining proper vouchers for such disbursements and shall report to the Governor and the BOA at the regular meetings of the BOA, or whenever they may require it, an account of transactions as the chief fiscal officer of the Society, and of the financial condition of the Society, and shall present each year before the annual meeting of the members a full financial report of the preceding fiscal year. The Treasurer shall prepare the annual budget to be presented to the BOA. The Treasurer shall be a member *ex officio* of the Finance Committee.
- 7 The Historian shall examine, report, and file all final applications and related documents for applicants approved for membership, and all applications for supplemental lines, in accordance with guidelines established by the Historian General of GSMD. The Historian shall be knowledgeable in accepted genealogical processes and procedures.
 - 8 The Elder shall perform such duties as are assigned by the Governor and the BOA,
 - 9 The Captain shall be commander of the Color Guard, and shall have the possession and care of the Society's colors. The Captain shall perform such duties as are assigned by the Governor and the BOA and shall act as Marshal at all parades and on occasions of ceremony. At the Society's meetings, the Captain may, at the request of the Governor, enumerate the descendants of each Mayflower passenger by calling the roll of passengers and shall lead the membership in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and *The Mayflower* Pledge.
 - 10 The Counselor shall advise the Governor and the BOA on legal matters, as requested, particularly those having to do with the proper interpretation of the Bylaws, in order that the business of the Society may be transacted lawfully and in accordance with the bylaws. The Counselor shall be a member of the South Carolina Bar and be licensed and in good standing with the South Carolina Supreme Court.

ARTICLE SIX-ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 1 The Nominating Committee shall submit the names of persons identified by it as candidates for office to the membership, as provided hereunder.
- 2 Any member of the Society who has not been nominated by the Nominating Committee may become a nominee for any office by having five or more members of the Society nominate such member as a candidate for office. All such nominations must be in writing, stating the name of the member and the office for which nominated. The nomination must be signed by the members making the nomination, and delivered to the Recording Secretary not later than the commencement of the Annual Meeting during which elections are to be held.
- 3 Where there is more than one candidate for any office, the election may be by secret ballot, at the discretion of the presiding officer.