



**The Society of Mayflower Descendants
in the State of South Carolina**

Bylaws

Approved 16 May 2026

**BYLAWS OF THE
SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWR DESCENDANTS
IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, INC.**

ARTICLE I – ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The name of this society shall be The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of South Carolina, Inc (hereinafter known as SMD-SC). The SMD-SC is a constituent part of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (hereinafter known as GSMD).

Section 2. The SMD-SC shall have a seal in such form as the Board of Assistants (hereinafter known as the BOA) may alter from time to time.

Section 3. The mission of the SMD-SC is 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*.

Section 4. The objects of the SMD-SC 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. Preserve the history of The Mayflower’s voyage and its passengers for future generations.
3. Maintain and defend the principles of civil and religious liberty, as set forth in The Mayflower Compact.
4. Cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American freedom and to oppose any theory or action that threatens them.
5. Transmit the spirit, the purity of purpose and steadfastness of will of the Pilgrim Fathers and Mothers, and to perpetuate the undiminished heritage of liberty and law to those who shall come after.
6. Discover, record, and publish the ancestry of the Pilgrims and the lines of their posterity, past and present.
7. Cooperate with GSMD and all its constituent societies.
8. Be known as an educational non-profit organization. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, this organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All persons over eighteen (18) years of age who can document lineage from a passenger on The Mayflower on the voyage which terminated at Plymouth New England in December 1620 shall be eligible for regular membership in the SMD-SC.

Section 2. Notwithstanding Article III, Section 1, 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 that of any State or Territory, or who has been guilty of other treasonable practices or who is not of good moral character. This Society shall have the right to expel from its membership any person for any of these causes and any question arising under this provision as determined by the SMD-SC BOA.

Section 3. There shall be four classes of membership in the SMD-SC:

- a) **Regular Membership.** Those members who are accepted for membership and are eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- b) **Junior Membership.** Those members who are accepted for membership while they are less than eighteen (18) years of age. A member may remain a Junior Member until he or she shall attain the age of twenty-five (25) years at which time they shall submit the usual lineage application for regular membership. Junior Members shall have no voting rights or privileges, may not hold office and receive only SMD-SC membership numbers.
- c) **Life Members.** Those members accepted for regular membership and who have paid the specified Life Member dues.
- d) **Emeritus Members.** Emeritus members are divided into three categories:
 - (1) Members granted Emeritus status based on age. Any member who has reached the age of eighty (80) years and who has been a member of the SMD-SC for five (5) or more years. Any member in this status pays only the dues required by GSMD.
 - (2) Members granted Emeritus status based on extraordinary service. Any member granted this status prior to July 25, 2005 pays no GSMD or SMD-SC dues.
 - (3) Members granted Emeritus status based on extraordinary service after July 25, 2005 pays only the dues required by GSMD.

Section 4. Emeritus membership shall be conferred by a majority vote of members present. Any member may nominate another member for Emeritus status, giving the specific “extraordinary service” as justification. Notice of intent to do so must be communicated to the Governor at least two (2) weeks prior to any regular meeting.

Section 5. Any member in good standing of another State society shall be eligible to transfer his or her membership to SMD-SC.

Section 6. Any member of the Society may hold membership in multiple other State societies. Such a member will be known as a Dual Member and SMD-SC will assign an SMD-SC number. There is no change to the member’s GSMD number. A dual member shall be eligible to represent the Society as a delegate to the General Congress of GSMD.

Section 7. Any member may resign from the Society by giving written notice provided the member’s dues are current. Any member whose annual dues remain unpaid on December 31, after proper notice has been given, shall be dropped from membership.

Section 8. Any regular member of SMD-SC who has resigned or been dropped may be reinstated to membership in SMD-SC on payment of a reinstatement fee and current dues.

Section 9. Any member of the Society whose conduct is reasonably believed by the BOA to be contrary to the purposes of GSMD or SMD-SC or prejudicial to their interests shall be subject to suspension or expulsion by the BOA as outlined in the Membership policy (Section 10).

ARTICLE III – DUES AND FEES

Section 1. The dues for Regular, Life and Emeritus Membership and fees for applications, Junior Membership, and various other fees shall be established by the BOA and listed in a Dues and Fees Schedule and attached to Policy: Dues and Fees. Specific procedures for setting and collecting all dues and fees shall be included in this Policy. It shall be the responsibility of the Governor to ensure the policy is kept current with procedures and specific fees.

Section 2. Application and supplemental fees are not refundable regardless of the acceptance or rejection of the applications.

Section 3. The BOA shall have the authority to excuse the dues of any member.

Section 4. The BOA shall be empowered to solicit voluntary contributions from the members of SMD-SC for purposes furthering the objects of SMD-SC.

Section 5. The SMD-SC fiscal year shall be on a calendar year basis.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Society shall be a Governor, Deputy Governor, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Elder, Captain, Counselor and Surgeon.

Section 2. These officers, together with the Deputy Governor General (DGG) and the Assistant General (AG), an Education Assistant, a Junior Membership Assistant and the Palmetto Log Editor, shall constitute the Board of Assistants of SMD-SC charged with the planning and promotion of this Society. Past Governors of SMD-SC shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of the Board of Assistants.

Section 3. The officers of SMD-SC shall be elected in the manner prescribed in Policy: Nomination and Election of Officers.

Section 4. The officers of SMD-SC shall be elected by majority vote at the triennial election meeting following the triennial September Congress of the General Society and will assume office immediately after the election. Officers will serve a three-year term or until a successor is elected. No person may serve as Governor or Deputy Governor for more than two consecutive terms.

Section 5. The DGG and AG shall be nominated by majority vote at the SMD-SC Spring meeting in the year of the GSMD Triennial Congress.

Section 6. The Governor, with approval of the BOA, may appoint any member to fill unexpired terms of any BOA member when necessary. The Governor, with approval of the BOA may remove any BOA member for failure to perform duties of the position.

Section 7. The BOA may remove any BOA member for conduct that is detrimental to the Society. Such removal action must be done at a regular or special meeting of the BOA (as outlined in the Meetings policy, Section 4), either in person or by electronic means, but may NOT be done by an email poll of the BOA. The subject member must be given adequate notice in order to present a defense at the meeting. Neither the governor nor any BOA member may request that the member resign in order to circumvent the above procedure. Formal removal proceedings must be initiated if the BOA determines the conduct of a BOA member is detrimental to the Society. The subject member may offer to resign from the BOA once the removal proceedings have been initiated, but such resignation must be voluntary.

Section 8. The BOA shall designate delegates and alternates to represent the SMD-SC at GSMD meetings.

Section 9. The SMD-SC shall maintain policies regarding certain processes and procedures within the Society. Such policies shall be initiated, maintained, amended or cancelled, in whole or part, by a majority vote of the BOA.

Section 10. Duties of officers:

- a) The *Governor* shall preside at all meetings of the SMD-SC and the BOA, appoint committees for specific purposes, and perform such other duties usually vested in the chief executive officer of

similarly-situated non-profit organizations. The Governor shall be nominated by the Society as either the Deputy Governor General (DGG) or Assistant General (AG) when such nominations are required for meetings during the Governor's term.

- b) The *Deputy Governor* shall exercise all functions of the office of Governor during the absence or disability of the Governor
- c) The *Recording Secretary* shall record all proceedings and is the custodian of the SMD-SC seal.
- d) The *Corresponding Secretary* shall give due notice of all meetings of the SMD-SC, shall be the official record keeper of the SMD-SC, maintain a roll of the members of the SMD-SC, and conduct the correspondence of the SMD-SC.
- e) The *Treasurer* shall have charge of all funds of the SMD-SC, oversee the collection of all fees, dues and any other sums due the SMD-SC, make all disbursements and maintain appropriate records so as to report on the financial condition of the SMD-SC. The Treasurer shall complete the annual tax filings and exemption renewals and prepare insurance renewals. The Treasurer shall present a full financial report of the preceding fiscal year for each annual meeting and will prepare the annual budget for consideration by the BOA. The Treasurer shall be a member ex officio of the finance committee.
- f) The *Historian* shall have full responsibility for determining the eligibility of applications and the preparation of lineage papers for submission to the GMSD Historian General and shall notify new members of their acceptance.
- g) The *Elder* shall perform such duties as are assigned by the Governor and the BOA and shall conduct memorial services and prayers when necessary.
- h) The *Captain* shall command the Color Guard, have possession and care of the SMD-SC Colors, Compact, the Charter and will display materials and act as Marshal at all occasions of ceremony.
- i) The *Counselor* shall be a member of the South Carolina Bar, be licensed and in good standing with the South Carolina Supreme Court and perform such duties as the office may require.
- j) The *Surgeon* shall perform such duties as are assigned by the Governor and the BOA and shall commit to protect and promote the health and welfare of the members of the Society.

Section 11. SMD-SC will, to the extent legally permissible, and only to the extent that the status of SMD-SC as an organization exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code is not affected, indemnify each of its officers, employees or other agents against all liabilities and expenses.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section 1. The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of SMD-SC meetings when not in conflict with GSMD or SMD-SC Bylaws or South Carolina law.

Section 2. The SMD-SC shall meet at least twice each year for a Spring Meeting and an Annual Meeting, which will also commemorate Compact Day. Both meetings shall be held at a time, date and place determined by the BOA. Non-members of GSMD or SMD-SC may attend these meetings, subject to good behavior, but may not participate (ask questions or make comments) in any business of the Society which may be on the meeting agenda. Policy: Meetings, governs the logistics and procedures of all meetings.

Section 3. Special meetings of the members shall be called by the Governor when directed to do so by the BOA, or when requested in writing by twenty (20) or more members of SMD-SC. Such requests must contain the specific objective for the meeting.

Section 4. Notice of all meetings of the members shall be made at least two (2) weeks in advance by mail, private carrier, or any electronic means including as an announcement in the newsletter.

Section 5. The Governor shall hold three regular BOA meetings, preferably in January, April and October. Special BOA meetings shall be called by the Governor or when requested in writing from four (4) or more members of the BOA. Such requests must contain the specific objective for the meeting. The Governor shall issue a notice of the special meetings stating the specific purpose at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Section 6. At all regular or special meetings of the membership of the Society, fifteen (15) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. At all meetings of the BOA, four (4) voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 7. Any meeting may be held by an internet meeting service designated by the Governor.

Section 8. Any membership or BOA meeting may be postponed or cancelled by a majority vote of the BOA.

ARTICLE VI – DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the Society, any assets remaining after payment of all liabilities of the Society shall be given to the GSMD or distributed to one or more organizations with purposes similar to the purpose of the Society and exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)3 (or equivalent successor provision) of the Code, in such manner as shall be approved by a vote of a majority of the BOA then in office. No assets of the Society shall be distributed to BOA members, officers, or members.