

Constitution of the Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants

Adopted May 19, 1923
“As Revised April 29, 2013”

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Society shall be the “Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants”.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTS

The objects of this Society shall be:

Section 1. To perpetuate to a remote posterity the memory of our 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 advancement of the Christian faith and honor of our countrie”.

Section 2. To cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American freedom, and to oppose any theories or actions that threaten their continuity. To transmit to those who shall come after us the spirit, the purity of purpose, and the steadfastness of will of the Pilgrim Fathers, that our descendants may have an undiminished heritage of liberty and law.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility. To be eligible for membership in this Society a person must be a direct descendant of a Mayflower passenger on a voyage which ended at Plymouth (Massachusetts) in December 1620. However no one 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. And no one may become a member of this Society unless personally acceptable to it.

Section 2. Application for Membership. Every application for membership in this Society shall be made on a preliminary application blank provided by the Society. This application shall bear the autograph signatures of the candidate and two members of this Society, who shall vouch for the candidate. After the preliminary application has been approved, the lineage papers shall be issued. The lineage papers must be typewritten and filled out in duplicate. No person may become a member of this Society until his or her line of descent shall have been approved by the Historian General. Application for membership must be accompanied by the payment of an entrance fee.

Section 3. Active Members. An Active Member is one who meets the membership requirements of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, and who maintains the membership requirements of this Society.

Section 4. Junior Membership. An active member in good standing in the State Society may sponsor any person under eighteen (18) years of age for Junior Membership provided that a “proven lineage” is submitted to the Board of Assistants for consideration. A “proven lineage”

means that the Junior Member is related by established bloodline to a present or past member of the General Society. Upon affirmative vote by the Board of Assistants, with dues, initiation fees, and Junior Membership requirements all having been met, the Junior Member shall be recognized by the State Society. This process does not convey membership in the General Society. Junior Members may not vote or hold an office in the State Society nor in the General Society. Since the Junior Membership terminates automatically at age twenty-five (25), the Junior Member may, between the ages of eighteen (18) and twenty-five (25), apply for membership in the General Society provided that the regular application process is followed.

Section 5. Life Membership. The Society may provide Life Memberships. A member who qualifies for Life Membership shall thereafter during his lifetime be exempt from paying annual dues; this shall apply to both Active Members and Junior Members.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

Section 1 - Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting of this Society shall be held in the month of November; the specific date, time, and location to be designated by the Governor, provided however that insofar as practicable the date selected shall approximate November 21, the anniversary of the signing of the Compact on the Mayflower.

Section 2 - Other Meetings. Other meetings of the Society shall be held on call of the Governor of the Society, or of the Board of Assistants, or at the request of ten of the Active Members of the Society.

Section 3 - Notice of Meetings. Notice of each meeting of the Society shall be mailed to each Active Member at the address then showing on the records of the Society, at least seven days before each meeting.

Section 4 - Annual Meeting of the Board of Assistants. The annual meeting of the Board of Assistants shall be held at a place and time designated by its Chairman, on or not more than seven days prior to the annual meeting of the Society.

Section 5 - Other Meeting of the Board of Assistants. Other meetings of the Board may be held on call of its chairman, or at the request of a majority of its membership.

Section 6 - Quorum. At all meetings of the Society ten Active Members shall constitute a quorum. At all meetings of the Board of Assistants five Members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND BOARDS

Section 1 - Officers. The Officers of this Society shall be Governor, Deputy Governor, Secretary, Treasurer, Elder, Historian, Education and Publicity Officer, and Counsellor, as needed to advise on legal matters.

Section 2 - Officers to the General Congress. The Officers to the General Congress shall be Deputy Governor General and Assistant General. These officers shall be nominated by this Society and elected by the General Congress. They will serve three years or until the next meeting of the General Congress.

Section 3 - Board of Assistants. This Society shall have a Board of Assistants, which shall have general charge and direction of the affairs of the Society. This Board shall consist of the officers named in Section One of this Article, seven additional elective members, and the immediate Past

Governor of this Society. The Officers to the General Congress may be ex-officio Members of the Board of Assistants.

Section 4 - Election - Term of Office. The Officers specified in Sections One and Three of this Article, and elective Members of the Board of Assistants, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Society by a majority of the votes cast. The term for each officer shall be one year, and for each elective member of the Board three years. All Officers and all Members of the Board shall be eligible for re-election.

Section 5 - Duties and Powers. The duties and powers of the Officers of this Society, and the duties and powers of the Members of the Board of Assistants, shall be set forth in the By-Laws of this Society.

ARTICLE VI – FEES AND DUES

Section 1. The amount of the Entrance Fee shall be as stated in By-Laws.

Section 2. In case of re-instatement, the amount of the Re-instatement Fee shall be set by the Board of Assistants.

Section 3. The amount of the annual dues shall be as stated in By-Laws, and shall be for the calendar year, the dues being payable in January of each year. Payment of dues by a member elected during the three months preceding the annual meeting shall continue his membership until the end of the next succeeding fiscal year.

ARTICLE VII – 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 Society and the words “Plymouth, 1620” and “Nebraska, 1923”.

ARTICLE VIII – BY-LAWS

This Society shall adopt By-Laws consistent with this Constitution for the government of its affairs, and such By-Laws may be amended as provided therein.

ARTICLE IX – LOCAL COLONIES

This Society may authorize and assist in the formation and chartering within the State of Nebraska of local Colonies (Chapters) of this Society, membership in such Colonies being limited at all times to members in good standing in this Society. The Charter so granted shall set forth the rights, privileges, powers, and scope of activities of such Local Colony, being at all times consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Nebraska Society of Mayflower Descendants and subject, in its discretion, to the approval of the Active Membership of said State Society.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Meeting, or at a Special Meeting called for that purpose, by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the Active Members present and voting, at least a Quorum being present, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been read at the

previous Annual or Special Meeting, and shall have been stated in full in the call for the meeting at which the vote is to be taken.