

South Dakota Mayflower Society



NEWSLETTER

September 2026



OFFICERS

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Deputy Governor:
Casey Peterson
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Secretary: Tammy Bourne
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Treasurer: Cynthia Nelson
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Historian: Robin Fansler
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Co-Historian: Robyn Morgan
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GREETINGS FROM YOUR GOVERNOR

A Legacy Worth Preserving: A Message

When the Mayflower left England in 1620, its passengers came from different backgrounds and had different reasons for making the journey. But they shared the same uncertain voyage.

Storms, cramped quarters, limited provisions, and sickness tested everyone aboard. With no forecasts, radios, or way to call for help, they could only endure and hope to reach land.

Their original destination was farther south, near the Virginia Colony. Storms pushed them off course, and in November they reached what is now Massachusetts. With winter approaching, they remained and began building what became Plymouth Colony.

That first winter was devastating. Cold, hunger, inadequate shelter, and disease claimed nearly half of the Mayflower passengers and crew. Yet those who survived still had to build homes, find food, care for the sick, and prepare for another season.

They also had to learn to live in an unfamiliar land. Their relationships with Native peoples, including the Wampanoag, involved cooperation, trade, alliances, misunderstandings, and eventually conflict. The colonists were not entering an empty wilderness; they were entering a world with peoples and histories already established.

Survival required courage, cooperation, patience, and the ability to adapt when plans failed.

And perhaps that is why their story still speaks to us in 2026.

We have modern medicine, heated homes, weather satellites, emergency services, and forecasts. Yet blizzards still close roads, ice still knocks out power, and floods still disrupt our lives. When they do, we rediscover what the people of Plymouth understood: **the people around us matter.**

A neighbor with a generator, extra food or firewood, or simply someone willing to check on an elderly neighbor can make all the difference. In difficult times, a collection of houses becomes a community.

And if you are descended from someone who survived the Mayflower journey and those first difficult years at Plymouth, there is an especially meaningful connection:

You are here because they survived. Their resilience is part of your story. Today, that same spirit of perseverance is needed to preserve the history and future of The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of South Dakota.

Too many wonderful stories disappear simply because they were never shared and saved.

We need help. Your help. In reviewing 70 years of minutes from prior meetings, it doesn't look like anybody has directly asked. We are asking. Please consider donating to The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of South Dakota.

A monthly or annual contribution, a one-time donation, or a planned gift through a will or trust. You can also consider donating a house, land, commercial property, automobile, coin collection, gold and silver, or even a silent auction item at the annual meeting. We are a 501(c)(3). That means you can write off the donation for a tax deduction.

[Legacy: continued on page 2]

And you don't have to figure it out alone. We can help you navigate the how. Just give us a call.

Here is what we need your help with and specific dollar amounts for 2026/2027: **\$18,400**

- **Increase Junior Member participation and encourage them to become Regular Members.** We currently have 107 Junior Members. Historically, many of them will not apply for and become Regular Members. Goal: Move 20 Junior Members per year into Regular Members and pay for their application and first year of membership – 2027 - **\$4,700.**
- **Establish an annual scholarship program.** Goal: 2 scholarships – Fall 2027 - **\$4,000.**
- **Build a stronger website and manage it** where newsletters, photographs, and stories from years gone by can be preserved for future generations. 2027 - \$8,500 setup, \$100/mo. (Website host fee) - **\$9,700.**

If you wanted to donate one of the scholarships, we could label it with your family name or your ancestor name. Same with Junior to Regular member participation. The website designers we visited with completed the Massachusetts Society's website recently last year.

A \$50, \$100, \$2,000, or \$9,700 gift — **it all makes a difference.**

More than 68% of our members are at retirement age or older. That statistic should not simply concern us—it should inspire us. **We are the generation with the opportunity to decide what will be left behind.**

Be a legacy. Donate. We can help with details.

Randy Olivier, Governor
The Society of Mayflower Descendants
In the State of South Dakota
605.430.6246

Annual Meeting

Make plans now to attend this year's annual meeting!

The meeting will be held Saturday, October 3, 10:30 a.m. Central:

The Capitol Lake Visitors Center
650 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD, South Dakota 57501

The Visitors Center is a 4,000 square foot facility with a conference room, restrooms, kitchen, public gallery and rooftop observation deck—we have reserved this deck! It features views of Capitol Lake, the Governor's Residence, and the State Capitol. It is also located adjacent to the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War memorials, Fighting Stallions memorial, and First Responder memorials.

Annual Meeting Cost: \$30 per person (includes noon meal)
RSVP to Cynthia Nelson by text or email:
(605) 890-1167; cynthianelson97@gmail.com

A note from the Governor:

From the May 2006 meeting minutes, "Secretary Sharon Wiese gave a short history and read some excerpts from letters written in 1976 concerning the whereabouts of our Charter. The only copy we have at present is the negative."

In 2025, I asked Secretary Tammy Bourne to review all of our historic documents on hand and look for the negatives, and she found the negatives! We now have a complete list of charter members!

A huge congratulations to all of the Charter Members, and special thanks to the family of our first secretary, Ralph Knox Myers, member 50, who had called me directly and asked me to please research the Charter Member list and include Ralph.

As a note, John "Jack" Lefler, member 43, who was known to have attended every single meeting since the first one in 1956, was also not on the charter list until we had it updated.

(complete charter listing at end of newsletter)

In Memoriam



John Edward "Jack" Lefler
B: 18 Oct 1935
D: 1 Feb 2026
Elected to Society: 20 Oct 1956
Descendant of: Richard Warren



Russell Peirce
B: 21 Nov 1929
D: 7 Apr 2026
Elected to Society: 9 Mar 1965
Descendant of: John Alden

**WELCOME
ABOARD!**

Jonathan Alden Jenks, Elected to State Society: 21 Nov 2025, Descendant of: Thomas Rogers

Cynthia Smidt, Elected to State Society: 30 Jan 2026, Descendant of: John Billington

Gunnar Smidt, Elected to State Society: 30 Jan 2026, Descendant of: John Billington

Jennifer Smidt, Elected to State Society: 30 Jan 2026, Descendant of: John Billington

Rebecka Walingford, Elected to State Society: 27 Mar 2026, Descendant of: William Brewster

Jeffrey S Allen, Elected to State Society: 26 Jun 2026, Descendant of: William White

Tina Hawkins, Elected to State Society: 26 Jun 2026, Descendant of: Francis Cooke

From Your Secretary

Dear Cousins,

I hope the past year has treated you kindly. Mine has been filled with family, genealogy, and projects that continue to remind me why preserving people's stories matters.

I have continued taking genealogy classes and working on my own family history. These studies have challenged me to look beyond names and dates and think more deeply about the lives, relationships, hardships, and choices behind the records. There is always something new to learn—and usually another mystery waiting to be solved!

One of my greatest passions has been researching and writing Cemetery Spotlights for people buried in the Whitewood Cemetery. Each Spotlight brings together records, photographs, and family memories to tell the story of someone who might otherwise be remembered only by a name and dates on a gravestone. Sharing these stories with the community has become one of the most meaningful parts of my genealogy work.

My grandsons continue to bring great joy and plenty of energy into my life. Fisher recently turned five, and Townes celebrated his first birthday. Watching their personalities emerge is a wonderful reminder that family history is not only about those who came before us, but also about the generations whose stories are just beginning.

As your secretary, I want to help our society remain connected. We are still missing current email addresses for some members. If you have not received emails from us recently, please take a moment to update your contact information so you do not miss society news and announcements.

It is a privilege to serve as your secretary and to share in our common Mayflower heritage. I look forward to another year of learning, preserving our history, and staying connected with all of you.

Warm regards,

Tammy Bourne
Secretary

From Your Historian

Since our last meeting, we have made good progress with our genealogy applications.

- 6 new applications have been approved.
- 2 new applications are currently at Plymouth for review.
- 2 supplement applications are also at Plymouth for review.
- Several additional applications are currently in the process of being developed and prepared for submission.

We are pleased with the continued progress and look forward to moving these applications through the process in the coming weeks.

Robin Fansler



Tisquantum's story doesn't sit quietly in the margins of history — it rises like a tide, carrying both grief and grace in equal measure.

Long before the Pilgrims ever set foot on the shores of New England, he had already endured a lifetime of upheaval. Torn from his homeland, taken across an ocean against his will, sold into slavery in Spain, then freed through the compassion of monks who saw his humanity — his path wound through countries and cultures he never sought to know. In England he learned the language of the strangers who had stolen him, a skill that would one day become a lifeline for others. After years abroad, he finally secured passage back toward North America, only to be left in Newfoundland and forced to make the long, uncertain journey south on his own.

What awaited him was devastation beyond imagining. When he reached Patuxet — his home, his people, his identity — he found only silence. The plague had taken every life, leaving the village empty, the hearths cold, the land haunted by absence. He walked through the remnants of his world knowing he was the last of his tribe.

And yet, at nearly the same moment, another people were facing their own crucible. The Pilgrims, newly arrived and unprepared for the brutal New England winter, suffered unimaginable loss. Disease, exposure, and starvation claimed half of their number before spring thawed the earth. Families were shattered, graves multiplied, and hope flickered like a candle fighting the wind. Their survival was not assured; it hung by a thread.

Into this landscape of shared sorrow, Squanto stepped forward.

In 1621, he introduced himself to the Pilgrims who were building Plymouth over the remains of his own village. He could have turned away. He could have let grief harden into bitterness. Instead, he chose something extraordinary.

He offered help.

He taught them how to coax life from unfamiliar soil, how to fish the waters and navigate the seasons, how to understand the land not as an enemy but as a partner. He became their interpreter, their guide, their bridge to neighboring tribes. In a world reshaped by loss, he gave the Pilgrims knowledge that meant the difference between starvation and survival.

His role was not simple, nor was it free of sorrow — but it was miraculous. A man who had lost everything became essential to the future of people who had only just arrived. His resilience, his generosity, and his willingness to stand between cultures at a moment of profound uncertainty shaped the earliest chapters of Plymouth's story.

Squanto's legacy is not just one of assistance; it is one of endurance, compassion, and the quiet strength of a man who carried unimaginable history and still chose to help others live. And alongside his story stands the courage of the Pilgrims themselves — a people who endured devastating loss, buried half their community in a single winter, and yet pressed forward with faith, grit, and a determination that helped shape the beginnings of a new world.

Neither story should ever be forgotten.

69th Annual Meeting of
Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of SD
(A 501 C3 Organization)
4 October 2025
Crazy Horse, South Dakota

Governor Randy Olivier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was opened in prayer by Sharon Wiese followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Colier Wiese. Governor Olivier called the roll for officers and new members after which Historian Robin Fansler called the roll of ancestors. Deputy Governor Casey Peteron read last year's Meeting Minutes.

DGG Carter Wiese provided the General Congress Report, which was held in San Antonio, Texas. They did a good job with the presentation of awards, etc. There is a new general society historian general as well as a new member-at-large from the vacancies created. The evening banquet in San Antonio in September – featured the 1620 Club – all monies raised going to the Meeting House. Captain General Report Collier Wiese: “If you are up to it, join the Mayflower Guard at the General Society level. Contact Collier for more info. Significant work has been done at the Meeting House. The South Entry, gift shop, and sanctuary have been worked on. Carolan [SP?] Bells are all installed and are programmable to play different music for different events at different times of the year. The town is very happy with the results. They also hired a 3rd party to help with the Capital Campaign for the Meeting House. They have \$10m already accounted for and spent and will need approximately \$15m more. Consider adding the General Society to your will or living estate.

Reports of Officers - Governor Randy Olivier, Deputy Governor Casey Peterson, Treasurer Cyndi Nelson, Secretary Tammy Bourne [absent], Historian Robin Fansler [joined via Zoom Meeting], Elder Philip Blum [joined late via Zoom Meeting], Captain John Lefler [absent], Surgeon Dr. Stuart Rice

Reports of Committees - Nominating Committee, Randy Olivier, Chair. We had no nominations from the floor for any of the officer roles, which run through a 3-year cycle. So each of the officers will fill their roles for another 3 years. Cyndi Nelson said she will serve one more year and then will resign from her role (so we need to be looking for a qualified volunteer for this role so that we can get them up and working with Cyndi through the next year), Membership Outreach Committee- Randy Olivier Chair, with Casey Peterson, Marti Bobertz and Stuart Rice will be joining – where we divide the membership into 4 sections and each person makes phone calls, follows a script and updates info and asks for new membership, etc. The general consensus from Casey, Marti, and Randy was that people really like the phone interaction and it is creating some excitement and perhaps some new memberships. Cyndi Nelson – Jr Membership Chair – shared the Jr Member numbers.

GUEST SPEAKER – Paul Horsted on “The Black Hills Yesterday and Today.” Paul had a 4th edition hardbound of his original and then the Plains Book he published available and signed for \$49.99. All of his books were purchased by interested members.

LUNCH – Taco Bar

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Filling officer roles, updating SD website, adding Zoom for larger participation, Nominating committee, Scholarship tabled to 2026 and to include Education in the Title of the committee (So Education/Scholarship Committee is the title). Need to reach out to the chair – Barb ? and get an update and focus for 2026. and Outreach committees

NEW BUSINESS

- Creating a Co-Historian role and nominating a Co-Historian. We voted Robyn Morgan in as Co-Historian with signing authority. Unanimous yes.
- Officer Role – Counselor, Captain John Lefler is a Charter Member and as such will serve the role until he resigns or dies. Need to find a counselor.
- Adding Committees and Chairs – will update the Report to the Office of the Secretary General Society of Mayflower Descendants – the current list of committees and chairs.
- Adding Officer Insurance – Randy brought up the need for officer insurance and had an updated quote from Amy Heim, Client Advisor from World Insurance Associates LLC out of Melette, SD. \$900 for a \$1m separate limits for Directors and Officers (D&O) and EPL (Employment Practices – including volunteers). Or \$1,900 for \$2m in coverage same detail of who and what is covered. Randy had Casey Peterson come up and speak to coverage needs as well and Casey said that his CPA firm will not allow him to be on a board without insurance. Motion passed unanimously for \$900 version coverage. (So we need to reach out to Amy Heim and get a clear understanding, and include Casey on the phone call, of what is covered, not covered and if it meets what we had talked about and then get it set up asap.)
- \$175 per supplement now added to Bylaw language -- FYI Per Sharon Wiese and Collier Wiese, we will need to get the updated bylaws to the General Secretary. We will also email them to every member with email and mail to every member without email. There is also apparently an update needed where a Jr Member, if applying for a regular membership, gets their first year application \$150 and 1st year membership \$35 paid for by the SD Society. So \$185 value. So we need to see what year this was voted on and get it added to our bylaws. (NOTE: I will red-line our current Bylaws regarding Jr Member moving to a regular membership and send it out to the officers for review.)
- Website Update and Donation/Fundraising/Living Trust Requests to Fund it. Randy shared that Marti Bobertz had shared the contact info for the creators of the new Massachusetts Society's website. And that they had a couple of meetings online to review and cover it. \$10k for the site and \$200/mo for maintenance. Randy shared the promotional video and flyers from the designers. Randy also had Stuart Rice, who is also involved with SD SAR, come up and speak to the need for a better website as well as the one that he had updated for SAR. \$3k to set up and \$60/mo. He said he is covering the \$60/mo. Randy wants to compare the two. We already have approval from last year to spend \$5-\$7k so we don't have to go back to the general membership to get approval for up to that amount. But to be responsible officers to our group, we need to do a capital campaign so that we do not wipe out our bank balance. Further discussion amongst the voting officers shall ensue. Randy indicated that he could steer the capital campaign group and wants to compare the two websites. (NOTE: Randy also reached out to the Massachusetts design group and they said they would drop the price to \$7k and the monthly maintenance to \$100/mo (because he reminded them of our budget an fiduciary responsibility to our members!)
- South Dakota Star Quilt sold for less than purchase price. \$575. And we have to mail it.
- h. Merchandise available for sale Sharon and Carter offered up one of their two Meeting House paper weights for sale. Randy offered \$20 and none of the other members offered more. Sold.
- Pics with Turkeys. Randy shared the turkey pics. Cyndi Nelson volunteered to take them for 2026 as she has a trip planned.
- Scholarship 2026. Chaired for 2026 meeting. Will call it the Education/Scholarship Committee, chaired currently by Barbara Harms of Sioux Falls, SD.
- Coffee Clutches by area the members liked the idea of the informal nature of the clutch. A couple of West River members suggested a Rapid City coffee clutch. And then Marti Bobertz indicated she is heading one in Minneapolis area the week after the meeting with 7 or 8 out of the 21 members from that area that she had invited.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – Robyn Morgan was nominated, seconded and unanimously approved for the Co-Historian role with signing authority. There were no other floor nominations for any of the Board of Assistants officer roles for the state society (Governor, Deputy Governor, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian) or other officer roles. As such, each of the Board of Assistants shall serve a term from 2026-2028 unless they resign, quit, or can no longer participate.

ADJOURNMENT

BENEDICTION- Sharon Wiese did the final prayer.

GROUP PHOTO & MOUNTAIN TRIP (Optional) We did a couple of great photos of the group with the Crazy Horse Memorial in the background. Nobody opted to do the mountain trip.

Minutes taken by Randy Olivier in Tammy Bourne's absence

Tammy Bourne, Secretary

Financial Report

South Dakota Mayflower Society

8/19/25		23,511.18
Income		
2024 Dues Paid	120.00	23,631.18
2025 Dues Paid	660.00	24,291.18
2026 Dues Paid	4,920.00	29,211.18
2027 Dues Paid	120.00	29,331.18
New Life Members	600.00	29,931.18
New Junior Members	120.00	30,051.18
2025 Annual Meeting	530.00	30,581.18
Donations	2,170.00	32,751.18
Application Fees	1,880.00	34,631.18
Supplemental Fees	350.00	34,981.18
Account Interest	65.73	35,046.91
Expenses		
Quilt	640.39	34,406.52
2025 Annual Dinner	669.29	33,737.23
GSMD Application Prepay	1,050.00	32,687.23
GSMD Membership Dues	10,500.00	22,187.23
Randy Olivier - Archive Expense	22.90	22,164.33
2026 Annual Dinner	150.00	22,014.33
USLI Insurance Premium	900.00	<u>21,114.33</u>
08/19/26 Reconciled Bank Balance		<u>21,114.33</u>

2026 South Dakota Mayflower Society meeting - 3 Oct 2026
The Capitol Lake Visitor Center, 650 E Capitol Ave, Pierre, SD

10:00 a.m.

Registration, Meet and Greet

10:30 a.m.

Invocation

Elder Philip Blum

Pledge of Allegiance

Captain General Collier Wiese

Calling of the Roll

Historian Robin Fansler

Approval of Minutes

Secretary Tammy Bourne

Communications

Governor Randy Olivier

Reports of Officers

Governor:	Randy Olivier
Deputy Governor:	Casey Peterson
Secretary:	Tammy Bourne
Treasurer:	Cynthia Nelson
Historian:	Robin Fansler
Co-Historian:	Robyn Morgan
Elder:	Philip Blum
Counselor:	<u>Vacant</u>
Captain:	<u>Vacant</u>
Surgeon:	Dr. Stuart Rice

Reports of Committees

Jr Membership:	Cyndi Nelson
Education/Scholarship:	Barbara Harms
Membership Outreach:	Randy Olivier
Nomination:	Randy Olivier

11:45 p.m.

Guest Speaker

Mike Rounds or TBD

12:15 p.m.

Group Photo

All

12:30 p.m.

Lunch

Red Rossa Italian Grill will be catering: Roast Beef & Cheddar and Turkey Bruschetta deli sandwiches, a sliced fresh fruit platter, Romano salad (mixed greens, apple, crisp prosciutto, tomato, gorgonzola, candied walnut, creamy Romano dressing, balsamic reduction), assorted cookies, brownies, and peanut butter crispy bar tray.

1:00 p.m.

Unfinished Business

Counselor role is vacant.

Society member Marti

Bobertz and Governor Randy Olivier visited with the website creators of the Massachusetts Society's website. The final cost for the site setup was negotiated from \$10,000 to \$7,000 and the monthly maintenance from \$200/mo. to \$100/mo. No further action has been taken.

New Business

Merchandise for sale.

Filling officer roles until election 2028 – Counselor,
Treasurer, Captain.

Updating the Constitution

Updating the Bylaws

Society Financial Review

Donations

Scholarship 2026/2027

Website 2027

Site for the October 2027 meeting to be held on
Saturday, October 2, 2027.

Election of Officers

Fuller & Gov's Turkey Adventures

Drawings

Adjournment

Benediction

South Dakota Original Charter Member List from 1956 - Pg 1 of 2

SD#	Gen#	First Name	Maiden	Last Name	Transfer From	Initial Role
1	21113	Sarah	Loffler	Black	Illinois	Governor-1956
2	5736	Gertrude	Webster	Abbott	California	
3	8556	Jessie	Wadleigh	Boyce	California	
4	3332	Bertha	Treadwell Porter	Comstock	Colorado	
5	6446	Caroline	Mc Intire	Cumbow	Minnesota	Counsel-1956
6	10503	Ruth	Ballard	Fullinweider	Nebraska	
7	13148	Grace	Clarke	Graham	Nebraska	
8	14435	Nell	Carter	Kuehn	Ohio	
9	10467	Lillian	Eddy	Loucks	Iowa	
10	13835	Dorothy	Brewster Comstock	Moreton	Colorado	
11	19451	Grace Elizabeth	Warren	Nichols	New York	
12	10708	Mabel	Kingsley	Richardson	Iowa	
13	10707	Bird		Richardson	Iowa	
14	14467	Lerna	Diez	Veling	Minnesota	
15	5735	Elnora	Hayward	Webster	California	
16	21536	Mabel	McKay	Williams	Massachusetts	
17	22465	Ann	Cope	Apted		
18	22466	Sadie	Collins	Armin		
19	22467	Dorothy	Rouse	Bakker		
20	22468	Mary Ann	Johnson	Brandsma		
21	22469	Delmar Howe		Brewster		
22	22470	Wayne Maurice		Brewster		
23	22471	Hazel Marie	Myers	Bringelson		
24	22472	Deborah Ann		Burke		
25	22473	Evelyn	Jencks	Burke		
26	22474	Edward Percy		Churchill		
27	22475	Edith Rosanna		Churton		
28	22476	James Lee		Cope		
29	22477	Mabel Genevieve	Gunderson	Cope		DepGov-1956
30	22478	Myrtle	Otis	Crawley		
31	22479	George LeRoy		Edgerton		
32	22480	Lois	Porter	Forslund		
33	22481	Conrad Herbert		Gesner		Elder-1956
34	22482	Sarah	Hallowell Freeman	Gordon		
35	22483	Robert Wilson		Gunderson		
36	22484	George Walter		Gurney		
37	22485	Margaret Alice	Johnson	Jackson		
38	22486	Dorothy		Jencks		
39	22487	Adeline Miriam		Jenney		
40	22488	Wendell Augustus		Johnson		
41	22489	Myrtle	Myers	Jones		Hist-1956
42	22490	Bertha Fern	Myers	Lefler		
43	22491	John Edward		Lefler		

South Dakota Original Charter Member List from 1956 - Pg 2 of 2

SD#	Gen#	First Name	Maiden	Last Name	Transfer From	Initial Role
44	22492	Lois	Swain	Maier		
45	22493	Earl		Myers		
46	22494	Earl Henry		Myers		
47	22540	Glyn		Myers		
48	22495	Mark		Myers		
49	22496	Mark Wayne		Myers		Surgeon-1956
50	22497	Ralph Knox		Myers		Secretary-1956
51	22498	Joseph Calvin		Pease		
52	22499	Mabel Irene		Pease		Treasurer-1956
53	22500	Julie Belle	Owen	Pringle		
54	22501	Richard McLeran		Reische		
55	22502	Margaret Alatheia	Sullivan	Samuels		
56	22503	Herbert John		Schnaidt, Jr		
57	22504	Marjorie Etta	Hoard	Sullivan		
58	22505	William Bowman		Thrall		
59	22506	Warren Frederick		Vaughan		
60	22507	Charles Egbert		White		
61	22508	Charles Halstead		White		
62	22509	Halfred Hyatt		White		
63	22510	Gertrude May	Gunderson	Wyman		
64	22838	Dorothy Margaret	Rush	Hustead		
65	22839	William Edward		White		

THE SD SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS MEMBERSHIP BY YEAR

Note: Junior members are not used to track total annual membership numbers

Year	Members	Junior	Total	Jr %		Year	Members	Junior	Total	Jr %
1956	64	0	64	0.00%		1997	144	39	183	21.31%
1957	87	20	107	18.69%		1998	137	37	174	21.26%
1958	86	41	127	32.28%		1999	154	35	189	18.52%
1959	89	45	134	33.58%		2000	169	37	206	17.96%
1960	85	94	179	52.51%		2001	176	45	221	20.36%
1961	107	93	200	46.50%		2002	189	53	242	21.90%
1962	102	97	199	48.74%		2003	193	48	241	19.92%
1963	97	98	195	50.26%		2004	203	58	261	22.22%
1964	90	108	198	54.55%		2005	215	34	249	13.65%
1965	85	108	193	55.96%		2006	216	48	264	18.18%
1966	85	109	194	56.19%		2007	218	56	274	20.44%
1967	90	117	207	56.52%		2008	232	56	288	19.44%
1968	100	114	214	53.27%		2009	234	53	287	18.47%
1969	110	116	226	51.33%		2010	243	60	303	19.80%
1970	112	119	231	51.52%		2011	249	58	307	18.89%
1971	120	132	252	52.38%		2012	251	55	306	17.97%
1972	122	154	276	55.80%		2013	259	82	341	24.05%
1973	118	158	276	57.25%		2014	270	53	323	16.41%
1974	116	161	277	58.12%		2015	276	48	324	14.81%
1975	122	170	292	58.22%		2016	283	48	331	14.50%
1976	121	182	303	60.07%		2017	299	56	355	15.77%
1977	128	185	313	59.11%		2018	318	56	374	14.97%
1978	131	146	277	52.71%		2019	316	58	374	15.51%
1979	131	142	273	52.01%		2020	308	77	385	20.00%
1980	130	139	269	51.67%		2021	308	119	427	27.87%
1981	131	133	264	50.38%		2022	326	109	435	25.06%
1982	133	132	265	49.81%		2023	328	112	440	25.45%
1983	129	131	260	50.38%		2024	306	106	412	25.73%
1984	131	129	260	49.62%		2025	303	107	410	26.10%
1985	125	117	242	48.35%		2026				
1986	126	95	221	42.99%		2027				
1987	127	93	220	42.27%		2028				
1988	130	91	221	41.18%		2029				
1989	132	82	214	38.32%		2030				
1990	134	73	207	35.27%		2031				
1991	135	62	197	31.47%		2032				
1992	144	60	204	29.41%		2033				
1993	145	64	209	30.62%		2034				
1994	141	56	197	28.43%		2035				
1995	141	51	192	26.56%		2036				
1996	146	45	191	23.56%		2037				

Constitution and Bylaws

Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of South Dakota

Constitution

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this Society shall be the SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, hereinafter referred to as the Society or the State Society. When reference is made to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD), it will be so stated. The State Society is a 501 C3 Organization.

Commented [JW1]: note

Commented [JW2]: note

ARTICLE II

Objects

Section 1: To perpetuate to a remote posterity the memory of our Pilgrim forebears. 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 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.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1: All persons over eighteen years of age who are descended from a passenger of 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 4 of this Article, provided however,

(a) that no person shall be eligible for 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. This 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 shall be determined by the Society.

(b) that no one may become a member of this Society unless personally acceptable to it.

Section 2: Every application for membership in this Society shall be made ~~on a preliminary application blank provided by the Society. Such application shall bear the autograph signature of the candidate. in the current manner of application submission in use by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants GSMD.~~

Commented [JW3]: note

Section 3: ~~After the preliminary application has been approved, the lineage papers shall be issued. All completed lineage papers shall be examined by the State Society Historian, and when found to be correct sent to the Historian General for approval.~~ When approved, the Board of Assistants shall declare the applicant elected a member of the Society, unless in the meantime some fact has been brought to its attention that would make the applicant undesirable. An election shall be void unless the applicant pays the entrance fee and the current year's dues within thirty days after being notified of the election, by the State Society Historian **or Co-Historian**.

Section 4: A member in good standing in this Society may make application for Junior Membership in behalf of any person under eighteen (18) years of age who has a prima facie proven lineage. A Junior Member may, between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five, transfer to Regular Membership, provided the usual lineage papers have been furnished and approved, either prior to, or at the time of the application for transfer from Junior to regular Membership. The term "prima facie proven lineage" shall mean the Junior whose membership is offered is related to a present or past member of the Society by blood through the line by which such member was proved for the Society.

Section 5: An applicant for transfer of membership to this Society from that of another ~~State Member~~ Society shall send, **by mail or email**, a letter of request **to the Historian or Co-Historian**. ~~A copy of the lineage papers shall be sent from the State Society from which transfer is being made. A letter certifying that the applicant is a member in good standing shall be required.~~ **The Historian or Co-Historian shall confirm, via email, with the current Member Society that the member is in good standing. Once the transfer has been completed, the Historian or Co-Historian shall request a copy of the lineage papers from GSMD.**

Section 6: No applicant who has been rejected or whose name has been withdrawn shall be acted upon again within a period of one year.

Section 7: All resignations shall be presented in writing to the State Society Secretary. No resignation shall be accepted until all dues to the Society have been paid in full to the date of resignation.

Section 8: Honorary Membership may be conferred upon a member of long-standing in recognition of meritorious service.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

Section 1: The officers of this Society shall be Governor, Deputy Governor, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, **Co-Historian**, Elder, Captain, Surgeon and Counselor.

Section 2: The following officers: Governor, Deputy Governor, Secretary, Treasure, Historian, **Co-Historian**, Deputy Governor General and Assistant General, shall constitute the Board of Assistants. Past Society governors shall serve on the Board, ex officio.

Section 3: To elect officers, the Governor shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members of the Society who shall secure candidates for the offices to be filled. The committee's recommendations shall be ~~mailed~~ **provided** to each member of the Society by the Secretary, two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominations for the Society's Deputy Governor General and Assistant General are made by the Board of Assistants, with the election by the ~~General Society~~ **GSMD** at the Triennial Congress.

Section 4: Election of officers shall be by majority vote at the Society's Annual Meeting. They shall assume the duties of their office on or before November 21. The officers shall serve for a three-year term, or until a successor is duly qualified and elected.

Section 5: Vacancies occasioned by death, resignation or other cause, may be filled by the Board of Assistants for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE V

Commented [JW4]: note

Meetings

Section 1: The Annual Meeting, which commemorates the signing of the Mayflower Compact on November 21st, 1620, shall be held at such time and place as decided by the Board of Assistants. ~~Written notice~~ **Notice** of this Annual Meeting shall be ~~mailed~~ **provided** to each member two weeks prior to the date.

Section 2: Special meetings of the Society may be ordered by vote of the Board of Assistants. Only that business specifically stated in the call shall be considered.

Section 3: The order of business at all meetings shall be:

- a) Invocation
- b) Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- c) Calling of the Roll
- d) ~~Reading~~ **Approval** of the Minutes
- e) Communications
- f) Reports of Officers
- g) Reports of Committees
- h) Unfinished Business
- i) New Business
- j) Election of Officers
- k) Adjournment
- l) Benediction

ARTICLE VI

Amendments

This Constitution may be amended at the Annual Meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that a ~~written~~ copy of the proposed change, or changes, has been ~~sent~~ **provided** to each member two weeks prior to the meeting date.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

Meetings

Section 1: Meetings of the Board of Assistants may be called by the Governor, or upon a written request of three of its members.

Section 2: A quorum at Society Meetings shall consist of seven members. At meetings of the Board of Assistants, three members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3: All meetings of the Society and of the Board of Assistants shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

Section 4: Should a National State of Emergency or unforeseen event arise that prevents the Society from meeting in person, **or by decision of the Board for increased participation in the Society's Annual Meeting**, electronic or virtual mediums may be used for the purpose of receiving reports of officers and committees, for the election of officers, and for any other business that may arise. **For the Society's Annual Meeting, members attending by electronic or virtual mediums ~~media~~ will be considered as attending the meeting in person.**

Commented [JW5]: Note: when mediums is plural with an "s" it means those who conduct seances ...

ARTICLE II

Duties of Officers

Section 1: It shall be the duty of the Governor to preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Assistants, and to perform such other duties as pertain the chief officer of an organization.

Section 2: It shall be the duty of the Deputy Governor to exercise all the functions of the office of Governor in the absence of that officer.

Section 3: The Historian or Co-Historian shall examine and report upon lineage papers of applicants for membership, forward applications papers to the Historian General for approval, notify members of their election, have charge of the lineage papers, and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Governor or Board of Assistants.

Section 4: The Secretary shall record proceedings of the meetings of the Society and the Board of Assistant, keep a complete list of all members and their addresses, send whatever notices and communications as may be required by order of the Governor or Board of Assistants, have charge of issuing certificates of membership, and in general perform all the duties that usually pertain to the office of Secretary. The Secretary shall have custody of the Seal of the Society.

Section 5: The Treasurer shall collect and have custody of all funds of the Society, make necessary disbursements, and submit a report at the Annual Meeting.

Section 6: The Elder, when called upon, shall officiate at any meeting of the Society. This officer shall have been ordained as a Minister, Bishop, Elder, Deacon or Deaconess of a Christian Church.

Section 7: The Captain shall carry out all orders of the Governor, and act as Marshal on occasions of ceremony.

Section 8: The Surgeon shall have been duly admitted to the practice of Medicine and shall be under the orders of the Governor and the Board of Assistants.

Section 9: The Counselor shall render aid and give opinions upon matters pertaining to the Society when requested to do so by the Governor or Board of Assistants.

ARTICLE III

Committees

Special Committees shall be appointed by the Governor or the Board of Assistants, as circumstances require. A final report shall be given before being discharged

ARTICLE IV

Dues

Section 1: Applicants shall pay to the Treasurer an entrance fee of ~~one hundred fifty~~ **one hundred seventy-five** dollars (~~\$150.00~~ **\$175.00**) plus first year's dues (\$60.00), effective January 1, ~~2021~~ **2024**.

Section 2: Annual dues payable November 21st, shall be sixty dollars (\$60.00), effective January 1, 2021.

Section 3: For Junior Members, payment shall be made to the Treasurer in the amount of a fifteen dollar (\$15.00) membership fee. There shall be no annual dues for Junior Members. The Certificate of Membership is given gratis.

Section 4: The Society will pay the application fee and first year's dues for any Junior Member between the ages of 18-25) applying for regular membership.

Section 4 5: Members transferring from another State Member Society shall not be required to pay an entrance fee.

Section 5 6: A member of the Society, whose dues remain unpaid for two years, will be dropped from the roll, unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Assistants.

Commented [CW6]: Approved motion from Annual Meeting October 5, 2013.

Section 6 7: A member of the Society dropped from the roll for non-payment of dues, may be reinstated by payment of dues for the year in which membership was terminated, plus dues for the current year.

Section 7 8: To become a Life Member of this Society, and exempt from further annual dues an amount according to the following schedule shall be paid to the Treasurer:

<u>Ages</u>	<u>Payment</u>
34 and under	15 times the annual rate
35 – 55	12 times the annual rate
56 and over	10 times the annual rate

Effective January 1, 2021 and not transferable to another ~~State~~ **Member** Society.

Any Life Member who the Society has been unable to contact for two (2) years shall be dropped from the Society's membership roll. A Life Member who has been dropped from the Society's membership roll, for lack of contact, may request reinstatement of their Life Membership at any time. Upon receipt of the request the Life Member will be reinstated to the Society's membership roll, without cost or fees.

Life Members who resign their Life Memberships may request reinstatement of their Life Membership at any time. Upon receipt of the request the member will be reinstated to the Society's membership roll without cost or fees.

Section 8 9: For each supplemental line approved, a member shall pay ~~one hundred fifty~~ **one hundred seventy-five** dollars (~~\$150.00~~ **175.00**).

Section 9 10: Inurement of income to any private individual is prohibited.

Section 10 11: In the event of dissolution of the organization, all assets of the Society, after payment of all liabilities, must be distributed to an organization, or organizations, which at the time qualify as those described in Section 501 (CX3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or its corresponding provisions if amended).

ARTICLE V

Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to these Bylaws shall be made in the same manner as changes in the Constitution (see Constitution, Article VI).

Section 2: any section of these Bylaws may be suspended for a special purpose at any time by a unanimous vote of the members present at a meeting of the Society.

Effective ~~1 January 2023~~ **3 October 2026**