

**Constitution and Bylaws of the Albany Colony
Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York**

Organized 20 December 1904

Re-Organized 29 May 1952

Article I

Name

The name of this Society shall be the ALBANY COLONY, SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

Albany Colony is not a legal entity distinct from the New York Society (a not-for-profit corporation).

Article II

Objects

The objects of the Colony shall be:

1. To perpetuate the memory of our Pilgrim Fathers in common with other Societies of Mayflower Descendants.
2. To maintain and defend the principles of civil liberty as found in the Mayflower Compact and the Constitution of the United States of America.
3. To cherish and maintain the ideals and institutions of American Freedom and to oppose any theories that threaten their continuity.

Article III

Membership

All persons, members of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York, residing in any locality not within fifty miles of New York City, not affiliated with another Colony, shall be eligible to active membership.

Article IV

Officers

The officers of the Colony shall be a Colony Governor, a First Deputy Colony Governor, a Second Deputy Colony Governor, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer, an Elder, a Historian, a Captain, an Archivist, a Surgeon and a Counsellor.

Article V Election of Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Colony shall be elected by ballot at the Annual Meeting in May and each shall serve a term of three (3) years. A majority vote shall elect. If there is only one nominee for an office, the vote for that office may be by voice vote.

Section 2. Each officer-elect shall assume office at the close of the meeting at which he/she is elected. The term of office shall close with the assumption of the office by his/her successor.

Section 3. In the case of a vacancy in the office of Colony Governor, the First Deputy Colony Governor shall become Colony Governor. Vacancies in other offices shall be appointed by the Executive Committee until the next annual meeting.

Section 4. Nominations for candidates for all offices shall be presented by the Nominating Committee. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting in May, prior to the Election.

Article VI Duties of Officers

Section 1. The Officers of the Colony shall perform the duties prescribed in this Article and these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted herein.

Section 2. The Colony Governor shall be the chief executive officer, the official spokesperson for the Colony and shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Colony.

- a. He/she shall preside at all meetings of the Colony and the Executive Committee.
- b. He/she shall call special meetings of the Colony and the Executive Committee as provided in these Bylaws.
- c. He/she shall appoint committees per these Bylaws and others as may be deemed necessary and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominating Committee.

Section 3. The First Deputy Colony Governor shall perform the duties of the Colony Governor in the absence or inability of the Colony Governor to perform his/her duties.

- a. He/she shall perform such duties as may be delegated by the Colony Governor.
- b. He/she shall chair the Program Committee.

Section 4. The Second Deputy Colony Governor shall be a position of learning in depth about the colony.

- a. He/she shall perform such duties as may be delegated by the Colony Governor.
- b. He/she shall chair the committee to update the Membership Directory during the second year of his/her term.

Section 5. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the meetings (including all electronic meetings) of the Colony and of the Executive Committee.

- a. He/she shall record them in a permanent book kept for that purpose after approval.
- b. He/she shall perform such other duties pertinent to his/her office as the Colony, the Executive Committee or the Colony Governor shall direct.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall receive all monies due the Colony.

- a. He/she shall have charge of all funds and securities of the Colony and shall deposit same in banking institutions in the State of New York which the Executive Committee shall approve. Such funds shall be deposited to the credit of the Albany Colony, Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of New York.
- b. He/she shall disburse all funds as directed by the Colony Governor and/or the Executive Committee.
- c. He/she shall collect the membership dues annually, keep a record of all funds received and expended and give a financial report at each meeting of the Colony.
- d. He/she shall prepare the records prior to the annual meeting (May) for a review by the Audit committee.

Section 7. The Assistant Treasurer shall be a signer on all accounts and shall perform the duties of the Treasurer in the absence or inability of the Treasurer to perform his/her duties.

Section 8. The Captain is the custodian of the Colony Flag.

- a. He/she makes meeting arrangements and leads the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
- b. He/she shall perform other duties as may be delegated.

Section 9. The Elder supports the spiritual health of the Colony.

- a. He/she provides the invocation and benediction at all meetings.

Section 10. The Historian is responsible for assisting prospective Colony members in qualifying for membership in the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

- a. He/she reports the election of new members and supplemental lineages to the Colony.
- b. He/she shall serve on the committee to update/revise the membership directory once each term.

Section 11. The Archivist keeps the history of the Colony.

Section 12. The Surgeon shall have been duly admitted to the practice of medicine.

Section 13. The Counsellor shall be an attorney-at-law and shall render legal opinions on matters pertaining to the Colony.

Article VII Executive Committee

Section 1. All officers of the Colony shall constitute an Executive Committee.

Section 2. This Committee shall conduct the affairs of the Colony during the interim between meetings of the Colony and shall report its actions to the members.

Section 3. There shall be Executive Committee meetings held as needed at a place and date selected by the Colony Governor. Meetings may be held in person or electronically.

Section 4. Vacancies in any office shall be filled as prescribed in these Bylaws or by the Executive Committee until the next annual meeting.

Section 5. A quorum at Executive Committee meetings shall be six (6) officers.

Article VIII Committees

The Colony Governor may appoint such committees as the Colony shall require or the Executive Committee shall deem necessary.

Section 1. A Program Committee chaired by the First Deputy Colony Governor shall be responsible for speakers, presentations, educational opportunities as may be appropriate for each Colony meeting.

Section 2. A Membership Directory Committee chaired by the Second Deputy Colony Governor shall be responsible for updating/revising the Membership Directory once each administration in the second year of the term. The Historian is an automatic member of this committee, due to his/her position description.

Section 3. An Audit Committee consisting of three (3) members of the Albany Colony SOMD shall be appointed by the Colony Governor and shall review receipts and disbursements of funds of the Colony. They shall report on the status of accounts to the membership at the Annual (May) Meeting.

Section 4. A Nominating Committee consisting of all previous Colony Governors and supplemented by colony members appointed by the Colony Governor to total five (5) members shall propose a slate of officers at the Annual (May) Meeting every third year. Additionally, nominations for any office may be made from the floor prior to the election. See Article V for further information.

Section 5. A Webmaster shall be appointed by the Colony Governor and shall maintain the Colony's web presence by arranging for a continuing website and by assuring that the information remains current. He/she shall improve the presentation by adding new features and updating the graphical design as deemed appropriate. He/she shall ensure that members know how to access the website and encourage its use.

Section 6. An Editor shall be appointed by the Colony Governor and he/she shall collect current data of interest to members of Albany Colony and shall publish at least two issues of the MAYFLOWER CHRONICLES annually, immediately prior to the May (Annual) Meeting and the November (Compact Day) Meeting. Items included should be the Colony Governors Message, the Report of the Colony Historian, the Secretary's Minutes of the previous meeting and other items of interest including photos and a reservation form for the next meeting. He/she shall collaborate with the Colony Governor for editing prior to publication. He/she shall maintain a current database of e-mail addresses and/or postal addresses, in collaboration with the Historian and the Treasurer, for the distribution of the newsletter.

Section 7. A Finance Committee shall consist of the First Deputy Colony Governor, the Colony Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer and two (2) members appointed by the Colony Governor. The committee shall consider requests for appropriations and shall prepare a budget for each year based on receipts of the preceding year and shall provide for the expenses of the Colony. The budget shall be presented for review to the Executive Committee in person or electronically prior to the Annual (May) Meeting. The budget shall be presented for approval to the Albany Colony membership at the Annual (May) Meeting. A quorum of ten (10) members present would be required.

Section 8. A Parliamentarian may be appointed by the Colony Governor. It shall be the duty of the Parliamentarian to advise the presiding officer, the Executive Committee and the colony members on points of parliamentary law when requested.

Article IX Meetings

Meetings of the Colony shall be held on the first Saturday in May (The Annual Meeting) and on the first Saturday in November (Compact Day Meeting).

Section 1. Such other meetings as seem fitting and desirable shall be held at the call of the Colony Governor, four (4) members of the Executive Committee or ten (10) members in good standing of the Colony.

Section 2. A quorum at Colony Membership Meetings shall be ten (10) members in good standing.

Article X Amendments

Section 1. The Constitution and Bylaws of the Colony may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any Annual Meeting, provided that a copy of the proposed amendment has been sent to all members of the Colony at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be acted upon; and provided that the amendment has been proposed by the Executive Committee, by ten (10) members of the Colony or by a committee authorized by the Colony.

Section 2. Unless otherwise provided prior to its adoption in the motion to adopt, an amendment to this Constitution and Bylaws shall take effect at the close of the meeting at which it is adopted.

Article XI Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the most recent edition of ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED shall govern the Colony in all cases in which they are consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Colony and in any other matter not contained in these bylaws.

Constitution and Bylaws Revision adopted May 2016
Bylaws Amended May 2018 at Annual Meeting