

Rose Parade Float Update from California

by California Mayflower Society member (Los Angeles Colony) Carole Curran

The Voyage of Hope

As the passengers of the *Mayflower* set their eyes on the western horizon in 1620, their hearts and minds were filled with hope. Hope for a new beginning, hope for freedom, hope for the future of their families and hope for a new world. They knew that the Atlantic crossing would be challenging, they would all have to work together to be successful. Each came equipped to meet those challenges, some alone, some with their families, men, women and children united with one common goal.

Mayflower descendants today are setting their eyes, once again, on the western horizon looking towards Pasadena, California in 2020. The tasks to participate in the Rose Parade may seem daunting at first glance, but each one of us are equipped to meet those challenges. Together, individuals, families, men, women and children will once again be united in one common goal: Sailing the *Mayflower* on New Year's Day!

In March, members of the California *Mayflower* 2020 Committee gathered at the California Board of Assistants meeting in Oakland to present this project. Project Manager Kathleen Loftman (San Diego Colony) shared the timeline for various events that are being worked on. If the tasks were laid out end-to-end, they may very well stretch from Plymouth, Massachusetts to Pasadena, California! Rose Float Chair Carole Curran (Los Angeles Colony and Honorary Director of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses) shared about the Rose Parade, the organization, media coverage, float builders, float awards, and California's upcoming float design and essay contest. Fundraising Chair Scott Miller (Orange County Colony) circulated samples of the California 400th Anniversary Challenge Coins and the ways that individuals and colonies can work together to raise needed funds for the 2020 Celebration. Celebration Ball Chair Sue Butler (Orange County Colony) shared about the plans for a celebration ball to be held in May 2020.

Later in March, the 2020 Committee Chair Robert Dempster (Rancho Conejo Colony and GSMD 2020 Committee member), Carole Curran and California Governor Marcia Maloney met with the two largest float building companies. Fiesta Parade Floats and Phoenix Decorating Company supply most of the professionally built floats for the Rose Parade.

Just like our ancestors who planned and prepared for their voyage of hope, 400 years later we are planning and preparing for our voyage of hope. This project is being spearheaded by California, but it is important to remember that when this ship sails, it will sail as the General Society of Mayflower Descendants float with the Governor General at the helm. We have heard from excited members from colonies in Connecticut, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Washington and the District of Columbia who are interested in being a part of this adventure! We would love to hear from you, so send your comments or questions to the California *Mayflower* 2020 Committee at camayflower2020@gmail.com You can also help by sending a contribution with "2020" in the memo portion to California *Mayflower* Treasurer David Grinnell, 3501 Desert Creek Trail, Palm Springs, CA 92262-9754. We look forward to more exciting news to share in the coming months.



Scott Miller (Orange County Colony), State Governor Marcia Maloney, Kathleen Loftman (San Diego Colony), and Float Chair and Honorary Director of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses parade, Carole Curran (Los Angeles Colony).