



**BYLAWS
OF THE SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this Society shall be the “Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina” (“the North Carolina Society,” or “the Society,” or “this Society”).

ARTICLE II - OBJECTS

The objects of this Society shall be:

Section 1. To perpetuate to a remote posterity, the memory of our Pilgrim ancestors. To maintain and defend the principle of civil and religious liberty as set forth in the Mayflower Compact, “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 with an undiminished heritage of liberty and law, the spirit, the purity of purpose and steadfastness of the will of our Pilgrim ancestors to those who shall come after us, an undiminished heritage of liberty and law.

Section 3. To promote by the organization of a state body, the interests that are common to all of the Colonies of The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina. To secure, discover, and publish original matter in regard to the Pilgrims, to authenticate, preserve, and mark historical locations made memorable by Pilgrim association.

Section 4. To promote interests that are common to all of the Member Societies, and thus the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (the “General Society”).

ARTICLE III - GOVERNANCE

Section 1. Except for those matters reserved specifically herein to a vote of its members, the North Carolina Society’s affairs shall be governed under the general oversight and supervision of the Board of Assistants.

Section 2. The governance of the North Carolina Society shall be established in accordance with the laws and statutes of the United States and the State of North Carolina. This Society shall not have or exercise any power or authority either expressly, by interpretation, or by operation of law, nor shall it directly or indirectly engage in any activity, that would prevent this Corporation from qualifying (and continuing to qualify) as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue law.

Section 3. The North Carolina Society shall have the authority to maintain its own Bylaws, which, however, shall not be in any respect inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Society, and a copy of such Bylaws shall be submitted to the Secretary General and the Counsellor General at least thirty days before adoption. Any part of the North Carolina Society’s Bylaws which is found to be inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Society shall be null and void.

Section 4. The members of the North Carolina Society hereby authorize and direct the Board of Assistants to adopt such reasonable standing rules, policies, and procedures as are thought necessary or desirable to conduct the intention of the various provisions of this document and to ensure orderly and efficient management of the North Carolina Society’s affairs.

Section 5. Provided, however, in no event and under no circumstances, and notwithstanding merger, consolidation, reorganization, termination, dissolution or winding up of this Society voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, shall any part of the funds, property or assets owned or acquired by the North Carolina Society, whether principal, income, or accumulations, or the net earnings thereof, be distributed to, or inure to the benefit of:

- a. Any donor to the North Carolina Society or their heirs or personal representatives.
- b. Any officer of the North Carolina Society.

- c. Any corporation, organization, society, trust or agency, unless it is organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes, or for one or more of such purposes, and provided that no benefit may be distributed to, or inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual, and that no substantial part of the activities of the corporation, organization, society, trust or agency is carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the North Carolina Society shall not participate in, or intervene in, any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.
- d. The United States, any state, territory, or any political subdivision thereof, or the District of Columbia, unless for one or more exclusively public purpose.

Section 6. This Society shall never be operated for the primary purpose of carrying on a trade or business for profit.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the North Carolina Society is based on the rules set forth by the General Society and lineage must be approved by Historian General. All persons over eighteen years of age who are descended from a passenger on the Mayflower on the voyage which terminated at Plymouth, New England, in December 1620, shall be eligible for membership, except that 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 adjudicated guilty of other treasonable or felonious practices. The North Carolina Society shall have the right to expel any person from its membership for any of the stated causes, and any question arising under this provision shall be determined by the Board of Assistants of the North Carolina Society as provided in Article VI, Section 5.

Section 2. Life Membership. Any North Carolina Society member who was designated as a Life Member prior to the adoption of these Bylaws will continue as a Life Member until death or resignation.

Section 3. Junior Membership. Any person under 18 years of age may apply for Junior Membership. A Junior Member may stay on the member rolls until the age of 23 years old. Upon reaching age 18, the Junior Member may submit a Preliminary Application for regular membership in the North Carolina Society. A Junior Member may not vote.

Section 4. Supplemental Applications. A member in good standing who can trace descent from more than one Mayflower ancestor and desires to present a supplemental application, may do so.

Section 5. Transfers. A member in good standing of an affiliated society of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants may transfer to the North Carolina Society by submitting a transfer request.

Section 6. Dual Memberships. Any North Carolina Society member in good standing may be a member of another affiliated society of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Section 7. Drops for Cause.

- a. An annual member whose dues shall remain unpaid through the annual dues process shall be dropped from the roll of membership effective December 31 in the year of non-payment of dues. The Treasurer shall report on the list of members who have not yet paid their dues and may be removed from membership for not paying annual dues.
- b. Life members may be removed from the member rolls for not responding to mail confirming continued interest in membership.

Section 8. Reinstatements. A former member of this Society who has resigned or has been dropped for the non-payment of annual dues, and who wishes to be reinstated may request such action by applying to the Historian and paying the reinstatement fee established in the standing rules.

ARTICLE V - ELECTIONS

Section 1. The Governor shall appoint one member to the Nominating Committee from the North Carolina Society as a member at large and request each Colony Governor to appoint one member to the Committee from their respective Colony. The Committee shall meet, elect a chair, and select candidates to be nominated as officers. The report of the Committee shall be published in the Tarheel Pilgrim newsletter prior to the Annual Meeting, when the election is to be held. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented at the Annual Meeting, to be followed by a proper call by the presiding officer for nominations from the floor.

Section 2. The officers of this Society shall be elected by a simple majority of the voting members present at the Annual Meeting following the Triennial September Congress of the General Society except for the Deputy Governor General and Assistant General, who shall be nominated by the Board of Assistants prior to said Congress for election by the General Society. The Deputy Governor General and Assistant General may be re-nominated for additional terms. One of these officers may be the Governor of the North Carolina Society. The election is by the General Congress. In the event that the Deputy Governor General and/or the Assistant General cannot attend the meeting of the General Board of Assistants, the Governor may appoint a representative(s) for that meeting or appoint an acting Deputy Governor General or Assistant General.

Section 3. The North Carolina Society officers shall assume office immediately following the Annual Meeting at which they are elected. All officers of the North Carolina Society are elected for three years and may be re-elected as often as the North Carolina Society sees fit, with the exception of the Governor, who shall not serve more than two consecutive terms without a vote of two-thirds of the members present at the Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Society.

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF ASSISTANTS

Section 1. The Board of Assistants shall have general charge of the affairs of the North Carolina Society. The full Board of Assistants with Advisors shall meet during the Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Society and at such times as it shall be called together by the Governor, including electronic meetings. A special meeting of the voting members of the Board of Assistants may be called at the request of five officers for a specific purpose.

Section 2. One-third of the voting members of the Board of Assistants shall constitute a quorum unless changed in accordance with established parliamentary rules of order. Vacancies are not included in the determination of a quorum. When an individual holds two roles on the Board of Assistants, that individual is only counted once in the determination of a quorum.

Section 3. The Board can adjust fees paid for applications, reinstatements, supplemental applications, and application copying.

Section 4. The Board of Assistants shall appoint an individual to fill a vacancy on the Board of Assistants within 30 days of its vacancy to extend for the remainder of the term. This shall be done as a vote of the Board of Assistants for that individual to serve in an acting capacity until the membership can confirm the appointment at the Annual Meeting of the Society by a majority vote.

Section 5. The Board of Assistants may drop from the rolls, by a two-thirds vote, any member who is subject to expulsion as provided in Article IV, Section 1 or who is determined by the Board of Assistants to be prejudicial to the North Carolina Society through actions such as, but not limited to, violating a confidentiality agreement with the General Society, acting in non-compliance with the North Carolina Society's Bylaws or slandering the North Carolina Society verbally or in print. The said member should be given opportunity to appear before the Board in their own defense.

Section 6. Past Governors of the North Carolina Society may upon request of the Board of Assistants serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Assistants as an Emeritus Board. The duties of this Board shall include serving as judges for junior contests and other activities as requested by the current Governor of our Society. Membership within this Board is an honorary position given to past Governors who have made significant contributions to the North Carolina Society.

Section 7. Any member of the Board of Assistants who does not attend three concurrent meetings of the Board of Assistants shall have their position declared vacant. With the exception of the Emeritus Board, these positions shall be filled by the Board of Assistants via the process defined within this document in Article VI, Section 4.

Section 8. The Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Governor and advise the Board of Assistants to conduct orderly business, have such authority, and shall advise the colonies and the state organization to follow the basic parliamentary authority the North Carolina Society uses to conduct business. This is the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR).

Section 9. The voting members of the Board of Assistants shall consist of the Executive Officers of the North Carolina Society, the Colony Governors, the Chairs of the Standing Committees, and the Deputy Governor General. The nonvoting members (Advisors) include the Emeritus Board, the Parliamentarian, and Assistants to the officers including the Assistant Governor General (AG). The combined group shall constitute the full Board of Assistants with Advisors.

Section 10. In the event that a board member is unable or unwilling to perform the duties of their position but has not resigned, the Board of Assistants can remove the board member by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Assistants at a regularly scheduled board meeting. With the exception of the Emeritus Board, these positions shall be filled by the Board of Assistants via the process defined within this document in Article VI, Section 4.

ARTICLE VII - EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive Officers

- a. The Executive Officers of this Society shall be the Governor, Deputy Governor, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Elder, and Captain.
- b. Each office, with the exception of Governor and Deputy Governor, may have one or more assistants. This role can be used as a training mechanism for roles requiring significant technical expertise.
- c. Positions cannot be shared.
- d. An Executive Officer may not hold two Executive Officer positions but may serve as a Committee Chair or Colony Governor. In the event that this situation occurs, that individual will be entitled to only a single vote on matters before the Board of Assistants or any committee.

- e. The Executive Officers shall avail themselves of the training offered by the General Society to improve their performance in their respective roles.
- f. Executive Officers shall be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the execution of their roles in accordance with the expense policy and standing rules of the North Carolina Society.

Section 2. The Executive Officers listed in Section 1 above, with the Governor of each Colony, and the Chairs of the Standing Committees, and the Deputy Governor General shall constitute the voting body of the Board of Assistants.

Section 3. Assistants to the officers including the Assistant Governor General (AG), past Governors of the North Carolina Society, and the Parliamentarian provide assistance and serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Assistants and will therefore be in a nonvoting capacity in their service to the Board of Assistants.

Section 4. All members of the Board of Assistants must disclose any potential conflicts of interest in accordance with IRS Form 990 requirements. Additionally, a board member that has a potential conflict of interest where the North Carolina Society is considering a financial relationship, should be excused for the discussion and vote about the matter. Additionally, all board members should exercise and establish disclosure as a normal practice.

ARTICLE VIII - DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 1. The Governor shall:

- Preside at all meetings of the North Carolina Society and of the Board of Assistants.
- Appoint all committees with recommendations from the full Board of Assistants with Advisors and/or the Colonial Assembly (See Article XI, Section 5).
- Be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
- Work with the Board of Assistants for all decisions pertaining to the North Carolina Society.
- Together with other Officers with this duty, maintain an inventory of the North Carolina Society's properties and present it to the Recording Secretary to be included in the North Carolina Society's records.
- Represent the Society whenever necessary or appoint a representative.
- Give a written report at the Annual Meeting of the Society and provide for publication to the Tarheel Pilgrim.
- Be able to pass a credit check as required by the North Carolina Society's financial institution.
- Along with the Treasurer, be responsible for managing the North Carolina Society's assets.
- Collaborate with the Historian and Corresponding Secretary to send out a welcome packet to any new member.
- Appoint a Parliamentarian to serve with and advise the Board of Assistants.
- Serve as liaison for the Public Relations Committee, Nominating Committee and Audit Committee.

Section 2. The Deputy Governor shall:

- Perform all the duties of the office of the Governor during the absence or disability of the Governor.
- In the event the Governor's office is vacated, succeed to the office of Governor (subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the membership at the North Carolina Society's next Annual Meeting).
- Serve as liaison for the Bylaws Committee, Education Committee and Juniors Committee.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Governor.

During the absence or disability of the Deputy Governor, the duties of the Governor shall be performed by the following officers in the following succession: Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Elder, and the Captain.

Section 3. The Recording Secretary shall:

- Keep a record of all meetings and proceedings of the North Carolina Society and of the Board.
- Send minutes of each meeting within 30 days to the Officers of the North Carolina Society to be corrected and returned within 30 days, after which a corrected copy shall be sent to all members of the Board of Assistants within the next 30 days.
- Include the full inventory of the North Carolina Society's assets in the Society's records.

Section 4. The Corresponding Secretary shall:

- In conjunction with the Historian, keep records of all deaths, transfers in and out of the North Carolina Society, resignations, and reinstatements, sending the information to the Treasurer, Historian, the Newsletter Editor and to the Membership Manager and Secretary General of the General Society.
- Make annual and triennial reports to the Secretary General; send to the Secretary General an accurate alphabetical list of delegates to the General Congress.
- Be the roll keeper of the North Carolina Society
- Send out the current member list and new (or deceased) members to the Board of Assistants.
- Make such notices and communications as may be ordered by the North Carolina Society or by the Governor and perform all duties usually appertaining to such office.
- Serve as liaison for the Newsletter Committee.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall:

- Maintain all accounts belonging to the North Carolina Society.
- Charge, collect and receive all fees, dues, and all other money payable to the Society.
- Make all required disbursements.
- Invest, with the approval of the Budget and Finance Committee, all special funds of the Society.
- Report on the condition of the treasury at all stated meetings of the North Carolina Society and to the Governor or Board of Assistants at any time they may ask for a report.
- If the Board of Assistants requires it, furnish a bond in excess of the estimated funds in their possession at any time for the handling of the funds, the premium of such bond to be paid from the funds of the North Carolina Society.
- Notify the Corresponding Secretary of changes in the membership so that the membership list may be maintained accurately.
- Be able to pass a credit check as required by the North Carolina Society's financial institution.
- Along with the Governor, along be responsible for managing the North Carolina Society's assets.
- Serve as liaison for the Budget and Finance Committee.
- Order the past governor's medal when instructed to do so by the Board of Assistants.
- File annual tax returns for the North Carolina Society.
- Notify each non-dues paying member of their status prior to being dropped from the North Carolina Society by the 31st of December each calendar year.
- Together with other Officers with this duty, maintain an inventory of the North Carolina Society's properties and present it to the Recording Secretary to be included in the North Carolina Society's records.

Section 6. The Historian shall:

- Examine and report on all worksheet papers of applicants and shall be the custodian of all blank applications and worksheet papers.
- Keep a detailed record of all signed certificates and shall perform any other duties assigned by the Board of Assistants.
- When practical, assist applicants in filling out their worksheet papers and shall approve the new members, assigning them a state number.
- Prepare the appropriate membership certificate as required. Membership certificates will be presented at the annual state meeting or dispatched as necessary to the newly approved member.
- Together with other Officers with this duty, maintain an inventory of the North Carolina Society's properties and present it to the Recording Secretary to be included in the North Carolina Society's records.
- Review junior membership applications.
- Serve as liaison for the Membership Committee.

Section 7. The Elder shall:

- Officiate when called upon, at regular meetings of the North Carolina Society.
- Open the meeting with prayer or devotional service and shall give the benedictions.
- Be designated as a person of faith by their church.
- Send birthday cards to members aged 90 and older.

Section 8. The Captain shall:

- Function as a marshal at parades and on occasions of ceremony.
- Have custody of the flags, banners, and related equipment of the Society.
- Perform other duties pertaining to the position of Captain as the Governor may direct.
- Together with other Officers with this duty, maintain an inventory of the North Carolina Society's properties and present it to the Recording Secretary to be included in the North Carolina Society's records.

Section 9. Assets managed by the officers of the Society should be properly maintained and secured in safe and clean environment. A combined asset list of the Society will be maintained by the Recording Secretary and kept with the Society's permanent records. The Board of Assistants must approve the sale or disposition of assets.

ARTICLE IX - COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees are permanent committees that specialize in particular subject areas. Chairs of these committees shall be voting members of the Board of Assistants. Each committee shall select its own Chair. The Standing Committees shall be:

- a. Education – The Education Committee shall provide guidance to the Colonies regarding the selection of the annual scholarship as well as provide educational resources to the general public through the website and social media. The group shall provide both printed and digital materials to be included in the welcome packets of new members. The Board of Assistants liaison for this committee will be the Deputy Governor.
- b. Juniors - The Juniors Committee provides activities, educational stories of Pilgrim life and resources for Mayflower Juniors. The group shall provide both printed and digital materials to be included in the welcome packets of new Junior members. The Board

of Assistants liaison for this committee will be the Deputy Governor.

- c. Membership – The Membership Committee facilitates the membership process and collaborates with the Historian to guide prospective members through the application process. This group should collaborate with the Colonial Assembly on member retention activities. The Board of Assistants liaison for this committee will be the Historian.
- d. Public Relations – The Public Relations committee will oversee the North Carolina Society website and social media platforms as well as any print media to promote the North Carolina Society. This shall also include appearing at events representing the North Carolina Society. The Board of Assistants liaison for this committee will be the Governor.
- e. Newsletter – The Newsletter Committee shall be responsible for the publication of the Tarheel Pilgrim. The Editor of the Tarheel Pilgrim shall be considered the committee chair. The Board of Assistants liaison for this committee will be the Corresponding Secretary.

Section 2. Select, Special or Ad Hoc Committees may be formed to address a specific need and may only function for a limited period. These committees will be established by the Board of Assistants and will cease their function at the end of that Board's term. The Nominating Committee, Bylaws Committee, Audit Committee, and the Budget and Finance Committee shall be deemed special committees. Each committee shall select its own Chair. Chairs of these committees shall present findings or reports to the Board of Assistants but are not a part of the Board of Assistants.

- a. Nominating Committee - The Nominating Committee shall convene every three years to recommend to the North Carolina Society nominees for the offices of Governor, Deputy Governor, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Elder, and Captain. The Board of Assistants liaison for this committee shall be the Governor.
- b. The Bylaws Committee shall meet at least once every three years to review, update, and make recommendations for changes to the bylaws and standing rules. The Deputy Governor shall be the Board of Assistants liaison for this committee.
- c. The Budget and Finance Committee shall meet at least annually to develop an annual budget for the North Carolina Society. The Board of Assistants liaison for this committee shall be the Treasurer.
- d. The Audit Committee shall meet annually to ensure that the North Carolina Society's financial statements are accurate and reliable. The Board of Assistants liaison for this committee shall be the Governor.

Section 3. Subcommittees may need to be created to manage unexpected challenges or special purposes as they arise to provide a recommendation to the full Board of Assistants. The intent is to facilitate decision-making and allow for more nimble responses to urgent matters. These advisory committees guide in achieving mission-focused objectives. Except for the Executive Committee, chairs of these committees present findings or reports to the Board of Assistants as requested but are not a part of the Board.

- a. The Executive Committee is an example of a subcommittee. When the Board of Assistants is not in session, the Executive Committee serves as a steering committee and shall consist of the Governor, Deputy Governor, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Deputy Governor General. The committee typically meets more often than the full Board of Assistants – normally once a month.
- b. The Executive Committee may meet at the discretion of the governor to function as a steering committee for the full board, conduct research to assist in strategic planning, provide oversight, and address high level matters. The Board of Assistants receives reports from this subcommittee and approves their actions.
- c. The Executive Committee, through the Recording Secretary, shall render a report at each meeting of the Board of Assistants.

ARTICLE X - MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meetings of this Society shall be held in November at a place to be determined by the Colony that is coordinating that year's meeting or by electronic means. The Board of Assistants will approve the venue recommendation made by the Colony. A minimum of thirty days' notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given to the membership.

Section 2. The North Carolina Society shall host a minimum of one meeting per quarter with one being the Annual Meeting. The meetings may be virtual or in person.

Section 3. Special meetings of the North Carolina Society may be held at any specified time or place, including by electronic means at the call of the Governor or upon the request of twenty members. The object of such a meeting shall be stated in the notice, and no other business shall be transacted except by a two-thirds majority vote of all members present and voting. A minimum of seven days' notice shall be given of all special meetings of the North Carolina Society. Such notices will be sent to addresses of members as they appear in the books of the North Carolina Society.

Section 4. A minimum of seven days' notice shall be given for all meetings of the Board of Assistants.

Section 5. Twenty members of the North Carolina Society shall constitute a quorum for transacting business at any regular or special meetings of the members of the Society. This shall include members present in person or by electronic means. Proxy voting is not allowed.

Section 6. The order of business at all stated meetings of the North Carolina Society or Board of Assistants shall be as follows:

- 1. Welcome
- 2. Opening Rituals (Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance)

3. Approval of minutes of previously stated and intervening special meetings.
4. Communications
5. Reports of Officers
6. Reports of Colonies
7. Reports of Committees
8. Unfinished business
9. New business
10. Nominations and elections of officers in the applicable years
11. Benediction
12. Adjournment

Section 7. When a program is included in a meeting of the North Carolina Society, the Board of Assistants shall approve the speaker, topic, and honorarium (if applicable).

ARTICLE XI - COLONIES

Section 1. The Board of Assistants may, at any time, authorize the formation of a Colony whenever ten or more members of this Society in good standing shall sign a request for a charter for such Colony and file it with the Recording Secretary.

- a. The name of such new Colony shall be the form: "The _____ Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina."
- b. Currently, the seven colonies in the North Carolina Society are:
 - a. The Northeast Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina
 - b. The Southeast Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina
 - c. The Central Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina
 - d. The Piedmont Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina
 - e. The Charlotte Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina
 - f. The Western Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina
 - g. The Speedwell Colony of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of North Carolina
- c. The colonies are authorized to assess an optional membership fee to assist with Colony operations.

Section 2. Colony Leadership

- a. Each Colony, after its formation has been authorized by the Board of Assistants, may elect the following officers: Colony Governor, Deputy Colony Governor, Secretary, and Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer). Colony leadership may also include a Registrar to assist the Historian with applications in their Colony. All Colony officers shall have their primary residence in their designated Colony. Such officers shall include the Board of Directors of the Colony, which shall consist of not more than five members if there is a fourth and fifth member selected by the Colony at its discretion. Positions cannot be shared.
- b. If any office in a Colony becomes vacant, the Colony shall fill the vacancy within one month of the occurrence. Should the vacancy not be filled within that length of time, the Colony Governor shall appoint someone to fill the vacancy who shall serve until the next election of officers.
- c. In the event of a newly formed Colony, a Colony Governor vacancy exceeding 90 days or an otherwise inactive Colony, the North Carolina Society Governor may appoint an Acting Colony Governor until the Colony members elect a Colony Governor.
- d. The Colony Governor shall present a written report on the activities of the Colony at the Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Society, and shall upon request, furnish the Board of Assistants with information concerning the Colony.

Section 3. Colonies may adopt such regulations and bylaws as they may deem proper, provided that such regulations and bylaws do not conflict with the Bylaws or standing rules of the General Society or the North Carolina Society.

Section 4. If the applicants to whom a charter is granted do not meet and organize a Colony within six months after the granting of the charter, such action shall become void.

Section 5. The collective leadership of each Colony shall constitute an informal Colonial Assembly which may meet to assist each other with the development of their respective colonies and to share ideas. The purpose of the Colonial Assembly will be:

- Making recommendations to the Governor of the North Carolina Society for vacancies
- Working with the Membership Committee in welcoming new members
- Improving member retention
- Helping with other tasks as requested.

Section 6. Each Colony shall meet in person or virtually at least twice per year in order to be considered an active Colony.

ARTICLE XII - FEES AND DUES

The Board of Assistants will establish fees and dues to be aligned with the monies owed to the General Society. The time of payment and

the amount of all dues and fees shall be determined by the Board of Assistants. The standing rules show the various amounts and types of fees paid by members and prospective members.

Section 1. Fees.

- a. A non-refundable fee must accompany each application.
- b. Registration fees for meetings will be approved by the Board of Assistants.
- c. Other fees as defined by the Board of Assistants.

Section 2. Dues.

- a. Annual dues for each regular member shall be set by the Board of Assistants.
- b. Life Members, Junior Members, and Junior Life Members are not subject to annual dues.
- c. Annual members who have not paid their dues renewal within 30 days of the due date are subject to be dropped from the membership roll and may be required to be reinstated.

Section 3. Life membership fees and gifts, bequests, or legacies which are designated to be added to capital funds shall be held in trust and invested by the Treasurer, with the approval of the Budget and Finance Committee of the North Carolina Society. Unrestricted gifts, bequests, or legacies may be used for operating expenses of the North Carolina Society. Special gifts, bequests or legacies which designate or require special handling of both the principal and income shall be managed accordingly if accepted by the Board of Assistants.

Section 4 Members in good standing, who may desire to present supplemental lines for approval, may obtain from the Membership Chair blanks for the preparation of said lines upon the payment of the non-refundable fee to be set by the Board of Assistants.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Any proposed amendment of the Bylaws shall be submitted in writing to the Chair of the Bylaws Committee for review and recommendation. With committee consensus, approval will be sought from the Counsellor General. Once approved, copies of the proposed amendments shall be sent to the members of the Board of Assistants at least one month before the next regular meeting of that board.

Section 2. Any proposed amendment to the Bylaws will be reviewed and forwarded by the Board of Assistants to the membership of the North Carolina Society with a recommendation of approval or disapproval.

Section 3. A copy of the proposed amendment(s) shall be in the Tarheel Pilgrim newsletter and sent to members prior to the next regular meeting of the North Carolina Society for review and approval by the general membership.

Section 4. Such amendments shall become effective upon approval of membership at the Annual Meeting of the Society. Approval for changes to the Bylaws shall be by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting.

ARTICLE XIV - DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Upon the dissolution of the North Carolina Society, the Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the North Carolina Society, dispose of all of the assets of the North Carolina Society exclusively to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under §501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law), as the Board shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the District Court of the county in which the principal office of the North Carolina Society is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Section 2. No member of this Society shall benefit financially from the dissolution of the North Carolina Society. In the event of dissolution of this Society, the assets of this Society shall be distributed in accordance with the rules established by the General Society.

Approved on 01 November 2025



**STANDING RULES
OF THE SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

1. MEMBER FEES
 - a. The non-refundable application fee for new members will be \$200. If a perspective member pre-pays annual dues, those dues may be reimbursed in the event their application is not approved.
 - b. The supplemental application fee will be \$200.
 - c. Annual member dues are \$50.
 - d. The reinstatement fee is \$25. This shall cover the dues for the current calendar year. The member will be required to pay dues for the upcoming calendar year.
 - e. The transfer fee is \$25. This shall cover the dues for the current calendar year. The member will be required to pay dues for the upcoming calendar year.
 - f. Junior membership has a combined application fee and membership dues which is a one-time fee of \$35.
 - g. Dues Collection shall begin by September 1st with a due date of December 1st of the calendar year.
 - h. Any member making dues payments after December 1st may also be subject to the reinstatement fee in addition to annual dues.
 - i. Colony dues may be collected through the state dues collection process and dispersed to the Colonies by the Treasurer.
2. FINANCIAL MATTERS
 - a. Officers and Committee Chairs are responsible for submitting budget requests to the treasurer by August 1st for the upcoming calendar year.
 - b. Honoraria for program speakers shall not exceed \$100 without the Board of Assistants' approval.
 - c. Reimbursements
 - i. No unbudgeted expenditure can be made without the Board of Assistants' approval.
 - ii. All requests for reimbursement must include receipts and be submitted to the Treasurer within 60 days of the expenditure.
 - iii. All requests for reimbursement must be consistent with IRS Charitable-Use Deductions and shall not exceed IRS maximums.
 - iv. Executive officers and committee chairs should be reimbursed for expenses incurred for their respective roles in alignment with the Expense Reimbursement Policy. These expenses should be included within the approved annual budget of the North Carolina Society. The Board of Assistants must approve of any additional expenses.
 - d. At the end of the Governor's full term, the North Carolina Society will furnish the Governor with a Past Governor medal. Any exceptions will need to be approved by the Board of Assistants. The Treasurer will order the Past Governor's Medal to be paid for with Society funds.
 - e. The Treasurer shall purchase liability insurance annually for the North Carolina Society.
 - f. The North Carolina Society will maintain a Zoom license that may be used by the colonies in lieu of procuring an additional tool at cost to the Colony.
3. COLONY MEMBERSHIP
 - a. Historians will assign members to a Colony based on their physical address unless there is a special circumstance. Members residing outside the state will be assigned as at large and default to the Speedwell Colony.
 - b. All members of the North Carolina Society are able to join the Speedwell Colony.
4. PHOTO PERMISSION
 - a. Any member who does not want their photograph to be used within the North Carolina Society including social media must provide this request in writing to the Public Relations committee chair.
 - b. Without this request, it is understood that permission is granted for photographs that may be used to promote the North Carolina Society.
 - c. Junior members will receive a photo release form with their membership packet.
5. HOSTING SOCIETY MEETINGS
 - a. Colonies will rotate hosting responsibilities for the Spring and Annual Meetings of the North Carolina Society.
 - b. The hosting rotation schedule shall be as follows:
 - i. Central – Spring Meeting (Spring 2027, Spring 2030, Spring 2033)

- ii. Charlotte – Annual Meeting (Fall 2027, Fall 2030, Fall 2033)
 - iii. Northeast & Speedwell – Spring Meeting (Spring 2028, Spring 2031, Spring 2034)
 - iv. Piedmont – Annual Meeting (Fall 2025, Fall 2028, Fall 2031)
 - v. Southeast – Spring Meeting (Spring 2026, Spring 2029, Spring 2032)
 - vi. Western – Annual Meeting (Fall 2026, Fall 2029, Spring 2032)
6. SOCIETY DOCUMENTATION
- a. Once approved, meeting minutes of the Board of Assistants and General Meetings shall be posted online in a shared folder. The North Carolina Society’s governance documentation including the policy and procedure documents will also be posted in the shared folder.
 - b. The Bylaws and standing rules shall be posted on the North Carolina Society website.
7. TARHEEL PILGRIM
- a. The Tarheel Pilgrim shall be published quarterly.
 - b. The newsletter will be emailed to members and posted on the North Carolina Society website. Any members who do not have email may have the Tarheel Pilgrim mailed to their address on file.
8. AMENDMENTS
- a. Standing rules will be reviewed at least once every three years for verification and accuracy.
 - b. Amendments should be sent to members at least 30 days prior to the meeting at which the vote for the change(s) will occur.
 - c. These standing rules may be amended by a simple majority vote at any regular membership meeting.

Approved on 01 November 2025