**NATIONAL SOCIETY SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE PILGRIMS**

**MISSOURI BRANCH BYLAWS**

**Revised August 2020**

**ARTICLE I**

**Name**

This Branch shall be known by the name and title, Missouri Branch of the National Society, Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, reorganized October 1, 1953, at Columbia, Missouri.

**ARTICLE II**

**Purpose and Objects**

Section 1. The objects of this Branch shall be exclusively philanthropic, religious, educational, and scientific; to perpetuate the memory, and to foster and promote the principles and virtues of the Pilgrims; to commemorate publicly stated times principal events in the history of the Pilgrims, and to erect durable memorials to historic men, women and events; to encourage the study and research of Pilgrim history, especially as related to the foundation of civil government on the principals of religious freedom; to foster and establish such departments of study and of organizations as shall seem best to promote social rights, civic virtue, industrial, freedom, political equality, the supremacy of just laws, the value and sacredness of the ballot, the purity of the home, temperate and godly living, and the dependence of individuals, communities, states, and nations on the guidance of Almighty God, as taught by the Pilgrims.

Section 2. No part of the net earnings of the Branch shall inure to the benefits of, or be distributed to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Branch shall authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 1.

Section 3. No substantial part of the activities of this Branch shall be carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. This Branch shall not participate in, or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office including the publishing or distribution of statements.

Section 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles of this Branch shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c) (3) of Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue law).’

**ARTICLE III**

**Members**

Section 1. Pilgrim Ancestry. For the purpose of this Society, the term ‘Pilgrim’ shall denote any immigrant who settled before 1700 within the territory which became the forty-eight contiguous states of the United States of America without regard to religion or place of origin.

Section 2. Regular Membership. Any person of good character having attained the age of eighteen years, in lineal descent from any Pilgrim, shall be eligible for regular membership if acceptable to a Branch and the National Society. Such regular member shall affiliate with the Branch either through a Branch or as a member-at-large. Membership year shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31 of each calendar year. All membership dues shall become due and payable by December 31 of each year. Any member who has not paid membership dues by the specified date will be reported by Treasurer to the Treasurer General on their annual treasurer's report. The Treasurer General will in coordination with the Registrar General, delete those past due members from the society membership rolls.

Section 3. Junior Membership. Any person of good character under the age of twenty years and of Pilgrim ancestry may be enrolled as a Junior Member. A Junior Member shall not pay annual dues nor have the right to vote.

Section 4. Associate Membership. A spouse of a regular member in good standing may be received as an Associate Member. No Associate Member shall be eligible for membership by proven lineal descent, shall wear the official insignia of the Branch, shall have the right to vote, nor shall hold office. Dues for an Associate Member may be assessed by the branch to which such member is affiliated, no part of which shall be remitted to the Treasurer General.

Section 5. Honorary Membership. Honorary members shall pay no dues, shall not vote, nor hold office. Honorary members may wear the insignia and an appropriate certificate of membership may be presented.

Section 6. Application Papers. An applicant for regular or Junior membership shall present an application typed on the official computer application form with endorsements by two members of the Branch in good standing accompanied by the application fee and National dues for the current year. The application shall be retained by the Registrar General. The digitized application shall be electronically returned to the Branch as its copy.

a. Branch Membership. An applicant to be affiliated with the Branch shall present the application paper and supporting documentation with required fees and dues to the Registrar. Upon preliminary approval by the Registrar, the application with fees and national dues shall be forwarded promptly to the Registrar General. Upon acceptance by the Registrar General the fees and dues shall be transmitted to the Treasurer General. If the application paper is found to be finally unacceptable by the Registrar General, the national dues shall be transmitted to the Registrar for return to the applicant.

b. Membership-At-Large. An applicant desiring to affiliate with the Branch as a member-at-large shall present the application paper with fees and dues to the Registrar General. Upon acceptance by the Registrar General, the fees and dues shall be transmitted to the Treasurer General, and the application paper shall be retained by the Registrar General. If the application paper is found to be finally unacceptable by the Registrar General, the dues shall be returned to the applicant.

1. Dual Membership. A member of any Branch may be admitted as a dual member to another Branch upon approval of the other Branch. The member seeking admission shall provide to the other Branch a copy of the application paper and proof of membership in good standing in the original Branch. Such members may retain membership in the original Branch adhering to the rules and regulations of both Branches. The other Branch shall notify the Treasurer General and the Registrar General of the acceptance of such new member. The primary Branch is responsible for remitting the dual member’s national dues.

Section 7. Membership Certificate. The Assistant Registrar General shall provide a certificate of membership to newly admitted members, duly signed and sealed by the Governor General and the Registrar General.

Section 8. Supplemental Ancestral Line. The original application paper shall include only one ancestral lineage. A supplemental lineage may be submitted to the Registrar General, accompanied by the supplemental fee, in accordance with the procedure for the original application paper. A member affiliated with a branch shall forward the supplemental application papers through the Registrar. A member-at-large shall submit a supplemental lineage and fee to the Registrar General.

Section 9. Transfer. A member in good standing who desires a transfer between Branches should first get the concurrence of the proposed Branch. The member seeking admission shall provide to the proposed Branch a copy of the application paper and proof of membership in good standing in the original Branch. If the transfer is agreeable, the proposed Branch will notify the Treasurer General, the Registrar General, and the original Branch of the approved transfer, the effective date and new state number. Copies of this notification will also be furnished to the Treasurer General and the Registrar General.

Section 10. Resignation. A resignation shall be granted only to a member in good standing and shall be effective as of the date notice is received by the Treasurer General.

Section 11. Reinstatement. A member who has resigned in good standing may be reinstated upon recommendation of National or Branch officers and the payment of current dues. A member who has been dropped from membership for failure to pay dues may be reinstated upon recommendation of National or Branch officers and the payment of dues for the year in which the member was dropped and for the current year.

**ARTICLES IV**

**Officers**

Section 1. Elected Officers. The Branch shall elect a Governor, a First Deputy Governor, a Second Deputy Governor, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, a Registrar, a Historian, an Elder, and a Captain General.

Section 2. Term of Office. The elected officers shall serve terms three years (3) from the date of their election, until the election of their successors in office. Any officer having served half a term shall be deemed to have served a full term.

Section 3. Nominations. The Nomination Committee shall deliberate confidentially and independently, at their discretion seeking advice from officers and members of the Branch. They shall place in nomination the names of members of proven ability and experience. It shall be deemed desirable that an officer not be re-nominated to the same office, except in cases of obvious competence and expertise.

Section 4. Election. A majority vote of the membership shall constitute election to office. The election shall be by ballot, unless there is only one nomination for an office, in which case the election may be via voice vote.

Section 5. Installation. The elected officers shall be immediately installed by the Elder or by some other designated past officer.

Section 6. Final Duty. The retiring officers shall immediately, or within thirty days following the election, deliver to their successors in office all pertinent books, records, and documents.

Section 7. Honorary Officers. Each Governor having served a full term of office may upon retirement be elected Honorary Governor of the Branch. Such election shall be for life, contingent upon his or her remaining in good standing. An Honorary Governor shall have the right to vote at all meetings of the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE V**

**The Executive Board**

Section 1. Membership. The Executive Board of the Branch shall include its elected and appointed officers and Honorary Governors.

Section 2. Functions. The Executive Board shall act as an executive committee for the Branch. It shall have the power to act in emergencies on behalf of the Branch, and generally assist the Governor in implementing the aims of the Branch.

Section 3. Meetings. The Executive Board shall meet at a time set by the Governor. The transactions of the Executive Board shall not be published or read, but shall be filed for any later scrutiny by its members.

Section 4. Special Meetings. The Executive Board may be convened by the Governor, or upon written request of three members of the Executive Board.

Section 5. Quorum. An Executive Board meeting quorum is defined as the Executive Board members present.

**ARTICLE VI**

**The General Court**

Section 1. Delegates and Alternates to General Court. The Branch is entitled to two delegates.

a. If the Branch has over twenty-five (25) members, it is also entitled to one additional delegate for each additional number of members exceeding the twenty-five (25).The Branch is also entitled to one alternative for each delegate who shall act on the behalf of the delegate in their absence.

1. At any session of the General Court, a delegate may appoint any members present from his or her branch to act as an alternate in the absence of an elected delegate or alternate, provided that the Credential Committee is so advised.

Section 2. Reports. The Branch Governor shall make a written report to the General Court, and at other times as the Governor General may request.

**ARTICLE VII**

**Motto**

The motto of the Society shall be:

Land of Our Fathers! Ours to Preserve.

Ours to Transmit. Liberty in Union; Now and Forever

**ARTICLE VIII**

**Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern this Branch in all cases that are applicable and which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any Standing Rules of the Branch.

**ARTICLE IX**

**Amendment of the Bylaws**

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Missouri Branch by two-thirds (2/3) vote, provided the purposed amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular business meeting. Unless otherwise provided prior to its adoption or in the motion to adopt, an amendment shall become effective upon adjournment of the meeting at which it is adopted.

Section 2. Any amendment adopted by the General Court affecting the work of the Branch shall become law of the Branch without notice of the amendment.

**ARTICLE X**

**Duties of Officers**

Section 1. Governor. The Governor shall exercise leadership and general administrative oversight of the Branch.

1. He or she shall represent the Branch in public affairs.
2. He or she shall preside over the Executive Board.
3. He or she shall appoint an Advisor to the Branch Governor, a Parliamentarian, and a Webmaster.
4. He or she shall appoint the necessary committee chairmen to carry out the projects and programs of the Branch for that term of office.
5. He or she shall appoint members to fill vacancies occurring in elected offices.
6. He or she shall be a member ex-officio of all committees except the Nomination Committee.
7. He or she shall generally have concern for the welfare, interests, and activities of the Branch.
8. He or she shall be responsible for completing and submitting all annual reports on behalf of the Branch.

Section 2. Deputy Governor. The First and Second Deputy Governors shall assist the Governor by performing such duties as may be assigned to them.

1. They shall automatically succeed to the offices of Governor and First Deputy Governor for an unexpired term in the event of the death or resignation of the Governor.

Section 3. Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary shall record the proceedings of the meetings of the Branch and archive them for the Society.

Section 4. Corresponding Secretary. The Corresponding Secretary shall take care of the correspondence of the Branch.

Section 5. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds of the Branch.

1. He or she shall deposit funds in a bank approved by the Executive Board in the name of the Branch.
2. He or she shall collect all fees and dues and pay all bills after authorization by the Governor.
3. He or she shall file all forms as required by local, state or Federal regulations.
4. He or she shall submit all financial records for audit at the end of the elected term.

Section 6. Registrar. The Registrar shall examine all application and supplemental applications for the purpose of verifying the proper genealogical data.

1. He or she shall forward complete applications and supplemental applications, proofs, fees and dues to the Registrar General.
2. He or she shall report membership total and changes at meetings.

Section 7. Elder. The Elder shall be the chaplain of the Branch.

1. He or she shall submit to the National Society notification of deceased members using the proper form.
2. He or she shall hold a memorial service for deceased members.
3. He or she shall send cards to ill members and the family of deceased members.

Section 8. Historian. The Historian shall compile and maintain the historical records of the Society.

Section 9. Captain General. The Captain General shall perform the duties of a sergeant-at-arms.

1. He or she shall be responsible for the custody and display of the flags and the banner of the Branch.
2. He or she shall be responsible for the furnishings and arrangements for the meetings of the Branch.

**STANDING RULES**

The Standing Rules may be changed by vote of the members at a regular Branch meeting.

1. Two members of the Executive Board shall have their names on the Branch checking account.
2. The Missouri Branch shall hold one meeting in March and one in August on the fourth Saturday of each year unless voted upon by members to change the date.
3. When the need arises for Branch business, electronic and or teleconference communication may be implemented.
4. The Branch shall furnish the Governor with the Past Governor Pin and Sash if the full term of office was fulfilled.
5. A quorum shall be defined as the number of members present at a meeting.
6. Dues and Fees.
   1. Membership Fee. The Membership fee for regular members shall be thirty-five dollars ($35.00) which shall include eighteen dollars ($18.00) National application fee, ten dollars ($10.00) genealogist’s fee, and seven dollars ($7.00) National Society dues. The membership fee for Junior members shall be twenty-three dollars ($23.00) which shall include thirteen dollars ($13.00) National Society application fee, and ten dollars ($10.00) genealogist’s fee.
   2. Annual Dues. The annual National dues for a regular member shall be ($7.00) and shall be sent by the Treasurer to the Treasurer General prior to January 15th. The annual National Society dues for a member-at-large shall be ($14.00) and shall be sent by the member to the Treasurer General prior to January 15th.
   3. New Members. A member admitted to the Branch before September 1st shall pay dues for the current calendar year. The dues of a member admitted after September 1st shall be credited to the year following. Dues for the first year of membership shall be included in the membership fee.
   4. Annual Report of Dues. Prior to January 15th, seven dollars ($7.00) for each Branch member in good standing shall be sent to the Treasurer General by the Treasurer. This payment shall be accompanied by the names of the Branch members in good standing, listed alphabetically with complete names and addresses, with a record of current dues paid, and other membership data: marriage, death, transfer, a members moving from Junior status to regular membership, resignation, and any member in arrears.
   5. Waiver. In a case of hardship, a Branch may waive the dues of a member, but the Branch shall continue to remit seven dollars ($7.00) to the Treasurer General for that member.
   6. Supplemental Fee. A supplemental ancestral lineage may be filed with the Registrar General accompanied by a fee of twenty dollars ($20.00), which shall include ten dollars ($10.00) National fee and ten dollars ($10.00) genealogist’s fee, for each lineage to be verified. If a certificate is desired, an additional five dollars ($5.00) must accompany the supplemental application. A Branch member shall forward the supplemental application papers and fee through the Registrar. A Member-at-Large shall forward the supplemental application papers and fee to the Registrar General.