

SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS  
**ANNUAL MEETING, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, APRIL 2, 2016**

A quorum being present, State Society Governor Richard Denham called the meeting to order at 9 am. He announced that because Recording Secretary Judie Allen was unable to attend this meeting, he had appointed Linda Hill to serve as Secretary Pro Tem. This appointment had been approved yesterday at the BOA meeting. He also announced that the Parliamentarian for this meeting was Jane Power.

The assembly was asked to stand for the invocation, which was given by San Antonio Colony Elder Marie Schmutz. Pledges to the American Flag, the Texas Flag, and the Mayflower Flag were led by State Captain Charles Prince of the Houston Colony.

Gov. Denham welcomed all in attendance, thanked the San Antonio Colony for hosting the meeting and introduced San Antonio Colony Governor Debbie Werner who welcomed everyone to San Antonio.

Governor Denham asked if there were any new members in the group or members who were attending the state meeting for the first time. All "newcomers" were heartily welcomed.

After asking members to read over the standing rules for this meeting, Governor Denham asked if there were any objections to the them. Mike Nichols stated that he had an objection to rule # 5 which required that all reports had to be given orally. The objection was that some members might want to summarize their report or just note that it had been filed. Following discussion, Mike Nichols moved that the word "shall" be replaced with the word "may" so that members who wanted to read their reports could, but were not required to do so. Motion seconded and approved.

Gov. Denham asked if there were any objections to the standing rules as amended. Hearing none, the Standing rules were approved. Gov. Denham asked if there were any objections to the program as printed. Hearing no objections, the program was approved.

Governor Denham announced that the minutes of last year's meetings were read and approved by a committee of three, and that a new committee of three had been appointed and approved at yesterday's BOA meeting. This year's readers are Leah Davis, Dwight Benson, and Prarie Counce. A time keeper, Leah Davis, was also appointed and approved.

Gov. Denham announced that, due to health reasons, Richard Smith had to resign his position as Scholarship Chairman and as State Elder. To fill these vacancies, he made the following appointments: Charles Prince was appointed Scholarship Chairman. Carolyn McCall was appointed State Elder. Both these appointments were approved at the BOA. As Carolyn McCall could not be here today, San Antonio Elder Marie Schmutz, has graciously agreed to serve as elder for this meeting.

**THE CREDENTIALS REPORT**, prepared by registration chair Barbara Kyes and read by Debbie Werner, stated that 42 members and 21 guests, including a guest from Illinois, were registered for this meeting.

Gov. Denham, who is honored to be a GSMD Executive Committee Member-at-Large, introduced GSMD Deputy Governor General Mike Nichols. He noted that GSMD Assistant General Judie Allen was absent due to health reason.

## **REPORTS OF GENERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS**

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR GENERAL: Mike Nichols.** Report was not read at the meeting, but is presented here.

The 2015 General Board of Assistants meeting was held at the Foxwoods Resort in Ledyard, Connecticut on September 12. Texas was represented by Mike Nichols (Deputy Governor General and GSMD Technology Committee Chair), Judie Allen (Assistant General and GSMD Women of the Mayflower Committee), Rick Denham (GSMD Executive Committee Member at Large), Pat Nichols (Texas Society Publications Chair) and Linda Hill (GSMD Assistant Secretary General).

Judie Allen was elected and installed as the new Assistant General for Texas at that meeting. An award was made to Linda Hill for her significant contributions to the Texas Society, and the Governor General presented Linda another award for her contributions to the General Society.

For the first time, a training and information day for GSMD Officers, Committee Chairs and State Society Officers was held on Friday, September 11. An extraordinary amount of time was spent presenting the GSMD Strategic Plan. The GSMD Committees had an opportunity to meet and report.

The 2016 General Board of Assistants meeting will be held at the Columbia Club in Indianapolis, Indiana on September 8. The next 'training day' will be in 2018.

## **REPORTS OF THE STATE OFFICERS**

**REPORT OF STATE SOCIETY GOVERNOR: Richard Denham.**

During 2015 I attended meetings in Houston, Central Texas, DFW and West Texas. I intend to visit the remaining Colonies during 2016.

Our Juniors Program and Scholarship programs are expanding thanks to those committee members. Our membership is growing thanks to the work of our Historians.

Thanks to the Financial Committee and Endowment Committee for their work. I hope that 2016 continues with those successes.

Thanks to all the members, committee members, officers and the BOA for making my first year so enjoyable.

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR: Lorie Holbrooks.** No report.

**REPORT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY: Judie Allen.** No report.

**REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Prarie Counce.** Gave the highlights of her report at the meeting. It is presented here in its entirety.

Membership count consisting of regular and life members as of March 11, 2015, was 1,233 members.

The Corresponding Secretary communicates regularly with the office of the Historian General reporting deaths, name changes, address changes, resignations, dropped members, reinstated members, transfers-in, transfers-out and dual memberships.

The Corresponding Secretary prepared an Annual Report for the Texas Society at the end of 2015 and submitted it to the Secretary General and required State Officers.

The Corresponding Secretary submits an end-of-the-month report to the Board of Assistants/Directors reporting database changes.

Certificates along with congratulatory letters have been sent to 11 new Life Members during the 2015 fiscal year.

The Corresponding Secretary communicates with members and potential members as the opportunity arises or is requested by others.

The Corresponding Secretary works closely with the Treasurer, Historians, and the Governor of the State Society, and appreciates their help and guidance.

#### **REPORT OF THE CO HISTORIAN: Jennifer Mitten**

There is a total of three historians, Jennifer Mitten, Sheryl Schilling, Betty Gosdin, and 2 Assistant Historians, Elizabeth Heise and Lavonne Bradford. Historian Jennifer Mitten delivered the report for the group.

This has been an extremely busy year for the Co-Historians and Assistant Historians. The previous Co-Historians, Laurie Behn and Peggy Durack, submitted an enormous number of applications before they left office last March of 2015. In May 2015 alone, 23 new members were approved! For the calendar year 2015, we had 128 new members approved and 21 supplementals approved. Through March 8, 2016, we had an additional 21 new members approved and two supplementals. We currently have \_\_\_\_ applications pending in Plymouth.

It has been a challenging year for the historians. Approval wait times have gone from four to five months down to three to four months and Plymouth is making progress on verifying applications. Preparation of applications is taking longer due to new documentation and citation enhancements from the Historian General that require significant research time from the historians.

The Co-Historians are grateful to Laurie Behn and Peggy Durack for setting high application standards for Texas and for their willingness to answer questions from the current Historians and from applicants about the application process.

Peggy Marsh is having huge success in recruiting junior members and getting members interested in signing up their children and grandchildren.

It is a pleasure to see everyone and submit this report.

Governor Denham called for a short recess before the next report.

**REPORT OF THE STATE ELDER.** This report is traditionally a memorial in which the society remembers those who have passed since the last meeting. San Antonio Colony Elder Marie Schmutz conducted a lovely memorial service in which the following were remembered.

#### **Texas Mayflower Society Deaths Since Last Annual Meeting**

- GS71002, TX2201, Carol Scarborough, TX Governor 2013-2015, on April 8, 2015, ancestor William Bradford
- GS72056, TX2246, Rosemary D. Keller Sanders, on May 29, 2015, ancestor John Howland
- GS31364, TX612, Beulah Lackner, ancestor William White
- GS68104, TX2110, Margaret Davis, ancestors Francis Cooke and John Howland
- GS63500, TX1937, Ina Brundrett, on June 3, 2015, ancestors John Howland and John Tilley
- GS87913, TX3153, Wyndi Fuqua-Flanigan, on July 31, 2015, ancestor John Alden
- GS50344, TX1300, Yvonne June Keys Weaver, on October 27, 2013, ancestor Edward Fuller
- GS88668, TX3219, Sandra Cooper (Mrs. James Cooper), on September 18, 2015, ancestor Stephen Hopkins
- GS61986, TX1866, Barbara Wood Thompson, on February 8, 2015, ancestor John Howland
- GS43252, TX1130, Marilyn (Winky) Waugh, on September 15, 2015, ancestor William Bradford
- GS84528, TX2922, Norman Porter on October 8, 2015, ancestor Edward Fuller
- GS72724, TX2291, Van Buren Hereford, Jr., on October 26, 2015, ancestor William Bradford
- GS30911, TX589, Emma Gilliland Smith, a Life Member, on November 29, 2009, ancestors William Brewster and John Howland
- GS32035, TX642, Kerry Arnold Douglas, on May 10, 2015, ancestors Isaac Allerton and William Bradford
- GS55431, TX2436, Nancy Ring Vreugde, on February 07, 2016, ancestors Stephen Hopkins, John Alden, George Soule

Following a very moving memorial, there was another short break before the meeting resumed.

**REPORT OF THE STATE CAPTAIN: Charles Prince.** No report.

**REPORT OF THE STATE COUNSELOR: Lisa Pennington.** No report.

Governor Denham announce that the Treasurer's report and the reports of the Finance, Audit and Endowment Committees would be taken as a group since they all deal with the Society finances.

**REPORT OF THE STATE TREASURER: Mike Nichols.** Report read and presented here.

The requests made last year by the Audit, Endowment and Finance Committees have been implemented.

As of February 29, 2016, the Texas Society had \$4,428 in our Bank accounts, \$3,075 on deposit with GSMD, \$2,655 in the General Operating fund at Vanguard, \$138,079 in the Life Member Fund at Vanguard, and \$355,123 in the Mayflower Endowment Fund at Vanguard, for a total of \$503,359.

Total income for the 2014-2015 fiscal year was \$63,596, compared to the budget of \$57,640.

Total expenses were \$56,155 compared to the budget of \$57,633.

We had a surplus of \$7,441 for the fiscal year, which has been transferred into the Life Member Fund.

Membership expenses were \$41,951, compared to the budget of \$39,100. Our Operational expenses were \$5,928, compared to the budget of \$8,533. Our Education, Library and Scholarship expenses were \$8,276 compared to the budget of \$10,000.

Historian expenses were \$3,167 compared to \$2,600 budgeted. We purchased Microsoft Office 2016 for the Historian group members and we purchased the additional Mayflower Families books which were published for the Co-Historians.

Treasurer expenses were \$465 compared to \$500 budgeted. Membership renewal expenses were \$852 compared to the budget of \$998.

This was the first year members were able to pay their annual dues on-line using a credit card. I am pleased that 142 members paid their 2016 dues using this method.

The dues campaign went well. 12 additional members purchased Life Memberships.

6 of our 8 Colonies asked for reimbursement for Educational expenses for a total of \$3,129 of the \$4,000 budgeted. As we had agreed at the 2015 Annual Meeting, the unused funds were made available to all of the Colonies, and two of them received additional reimbursement.

The Library Committee spent \$2,147 compared to \$3,000 budgeted. One new library was added. Several of the anticipated new Mayflower Families books were not ready.

The new Co-Historians and Assistant Historians were issued credit cards so their expenses can be paid directly by the Texas Society.

I updated our Life Membership Analysis with the current status for the review by the Endowment Committee.

After receiving the requested financial information from the Colonies, I prepared and filed IRS Form 990-EZ with the IRS for the Texas Society and all of the Colonies. I will again be asking the Colonies for their financial information in order to prepare and file our group IRS 990-EZ.

The books were audited by the Audit Committee on March 19 2016.

**Recommendations of the State Treasurer:** Mike Nichols went through the reasoning behind these proposed By-laws changes that would be presented later in the meeting.

- While it is essential that the Governor approve all checks, mailing the physical checks to the Governor for signature is cumbersome at best, and sometimes not reliable. I recommend that we replace that requirement with a requirement to have documented approval by the Governor of all checks before they are mailed by the Treasurer. Bylaws change proposed and change Standing Rule #5.  
5. All bank required signature cards shall be signed by the Governor/President, Deputy Governor, and Treasurer. ~~The Governor/President or Deputy Governor shall co-sign all Society financial disbursements with the Treasurer.~~

- Our Bylaws state that the membership reinstatement fee is the dues amount for the year in which the membership was forfeited. As our dues change periodically, I recommend the reinstatement fee be equal to the current year's dues.
- Standing Rule #1 is obsolete and should be changed.
  1. Moneys in the Life Membership Fund and the Texas Mayflower Fund should be invested prudently for the long term, recognizing the needs for safety of principal, annual payments from these funds, and prevention of loss in value over time due to inflation.—~~If needed, securities shall be placed in a safety deposit box in a bank or other appropriate facility by the Treasurer in the name of the Society. The safety deposit box, if there is one, shall be accessible to the Treasurer and to the Governor/President, who are responsible for same, and located in the city of the Treasurer.~~
- Standing Rule #9 is obsolete and should be dropped.
  9. The appropriate Co-Historian shall be paid at the rate of Twenty dollars (\$20.00) each for the processing of original and supplemental applications.... Junior applications shall be paid at the rate of Five dollars (\$5.00) each ....
- Alter the specified Colony Education reimbursement amount in Standing Rule #14. The actual amount to be set by the BOA when approving the budget.
  14. The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Texas shall budget to each colony a yearly sum of **at least** Five Hundred dollars (\$500.00...

**REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Chairman Mike Nichols. Report read and presented here.**

The Finance Committee met on March 19 to review the finances of the Society and to prepare a recommended budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Budgeted Membership revenue for the 2016-2017 fiscal year is \$52,455. Other income and interest is budgeted at \$0. Scholarships and Education revenue is budgeted at \$12,620. Total budgeted revenue is \$65,075.

Budgeted Membership expenses are \$36,602 (62% of total expenses). Operational expenses are budgeted at \$9,770 (17% of total expenses). Scholarships and Education expenses are budgeted at \$12,620 (21% of total expenses).

**Recommendations of the Finance Committee approved by the BOA for presentation to the General Assembly:**

- The Treasurer transfer the actual amounts of the Scholarship, education and Library expenses from the Mayflower Fund instead of the budgeted amounts.
- Any surplus at the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year be transferred to the Mayflower Fund.
- The mid-year meeting of the Texas Society officers and the Colony Governors be held again. \$800 has been budgeted to defray the expenses of this meeting.
- The annual contribution to the General Society be increased to \$1,620.
- Budget \$250 to the Awards Committee for each award recipient to pay for the donation of a commemorative brick in the Octagon area of the Mayflower Society Garden Walkway in the name of the award recipients.
- The Balance Sheet prepared by the Treasurer should show the previous year as well as the current year.

- The request for financial information sent by the Treasurer to the Colony Treasurers should include the information submitted the previous year.

Finance Committee Members: Mike Nichols, Bart Henson, Dwight Benson, Rick Denham, Michael Byrne, Prarie Counce

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE: Chairman Charles Prince. Report read and presented here.**

**Summary**

On Saturday, March 19, 2016, Annual Audit of the books of the Mayflower Society in the State of Texas was conducted by the Audit Committee met in the Georgetown home of Mike Nichols. All financial books, records, statements and supporting documents were reviewed. As has been the case over the past term(s) of the Treasurer, all statements and accounts were in order and it was clear that careful attention had been given to the accounting during the fiscal year running from March 1, 2015 to February 29, 2016. All accounts were found to be in good order by the Committee. An unqualified audit approval of the records and statements was given by the Committee for the excellent work committed to by Mr. Nichols. Only one recommendation came out of the meeting with the Treasurer, Finance Committee and Endowment Committee as noted in the Recommendations section below.

**Discussion**

The Mayflower accounts continue to be maintained in QuickBooks accounting software, providing continuity that makes the Audit process very efficient. Various income, expense, transaction and asset statements were reviewed covering the fiscal year, and in comparison with the budget and prior years. Detailed spreadsheets showing historical trends by the line item and accounts were also provided and studied. The Treasurer also supplied the most recent account statements from Bank of America where we kept some of our Operating Account funds and Vanguard Investments where we maintain our investment accounts. All of these statements were again prepared with care and demonstrated the highest level of transparency, integrity, and great attention to detail that the Audit Committee has come to appreciate with our Treasurer. Cross checks confirmed the statements and the back-up asset account statements. These spot examinations confirmed the records were indeed accurate.

**We reviewed progress against the audit recommendations from last year with the following results:**

1. With the move to streamline the process for Historians/Historians Assistants to purchase supplies, it is recommended that a new institution be investigated to provide the use of Credit Cards, including possibly through our current Vanguard Investments.

Was not able to be done through Vanguard, but credit cards were set up, and have been in use this past year.

2. Request will be extended to the Education Committee to provide a resource list for the use of Education Funds, as some Colonies are not making full use of these funds.

Not achieved.

3. Recommendation is made that funds not used by December 31<sup>st</sup> will be forfeited, and available for use by other Colonies.

This was very successful with notification of the Treasurer at year end, and funds were put to good use.

- 4 Recommendation that competitive shop on pricing be approved based on Approved Vendor List.

This practice has been continued and will continue to protect the assets/credibility of the Texas Mayflower Society.

- 5 The Committee agrees that Historian Expenses paid with a Texas Society debit card, be submitted quarterly to the treasurer. These receipts are to be scanned (using the provided scanner for each Historian), and only the scanned version is emailed quarterly to the Treasurer.

Rather than a debit card, a credit card was issued and has been successful in payment of Historian expenses, and receipts have been received in timely manner for confirmation.

**Recommendation of the Audit Committee approved by the BOA for presentation to the General Assembly and subject to the approval of the proposed By-Laws change to Section 6. E. 3.**

1. **The one recommendation of the Committee was made in response to a recommendation of the Treasurer to change the rules requiring two signatures on all checks before they are mailed by the Treasurer. It is being recommended that proper Procedures be instituted to verify one signature for payments is working, and the Society continues to be protected.**

**REPORT OF THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE: Chairman Bart Henson not present. Report read by committee member Dwight Benson and presented here.**

Duties of the Endowment committee come from our bylaws and standing rules to:

- Supervise the Endowment assets of the Texas Mayflower Society, investing for the long term while recognizing the needs for safety of principal, annual payments required and prevention of loss of value through inflation, annually reporting to the Board of Assistants.
- Oversee the Society gifting program
- Recommend the amount to be made available to support the Educational and Historical activities of the Texas Society.

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The Endowment Committee met on March 19, 2016 at the home of the Treasurer Mike Nichols who had prepared excellent records for our consideration. Your Endowment Committee Trustees consists of:

- Bart Henson (2019), Chair
- Dwight Benson (2017), Member
- Mike Nichols, Treasurer

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Our Endowment Recommendations to the Board of Assistants last year had been followed/implemented.

Our investments had a 7% loss during the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year after a long run of positive annual returns. The loss was comparable to overall market average losses (US equities down 9.4% and bonds down 0.2%). However, since 2007, our investments have grown significantly (About 5% p.a. since 2007 or a 58% total growth in value.)

**Recommendations of the Endowment Committee approved by the BOA for presentation to the General Assembly:**

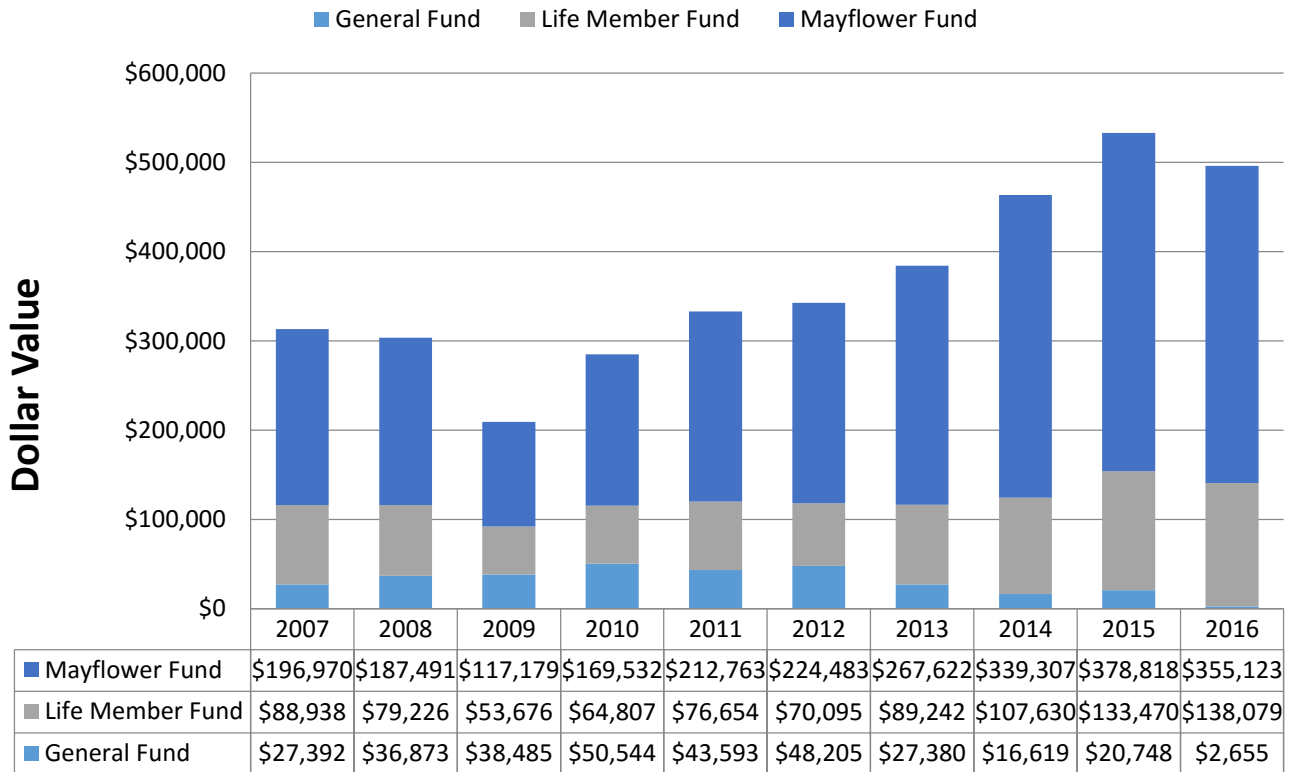


1. Sell \$10,000 of the REIT index Fund in the Life Member fund and reinvest that in the Short term bond fund in the Life Member Fund to reduce the outsized exposure to REITs.
2. Sell \$20,000 of the REIT index Fund in the Mayflower fund and reinvest that in the Intermediate Term bond index in the Mayflower Fund to reduce the outsized exposure to REITs
3. Adjust the Life Member fund actuarial calculation to assume continued healthy growth in new Life Members (6 per year), 3.5% earnings and 4% value growth per year. This should allow the Life Member fund to hold roughly even, using 25 times the annual dues as the cost of a Life Membership.
4. After Moving the 2015 operating surplus of \$7,441 to the Life Member Fund and using the assumptions in #3 above, the Life Member fund now appears to be fairly funded actuarially. Future surpluses should be sent to the Mayflower Fund.
5. Support approval of the proposed budgeted transfer of \$12,620 to the operating fund from the Mayflower fund since this amount represents 3.5% of the total Mayflower fund, a sustainable rate.

Our Investment Portfolio posture before and after these changes is as follows:

	<u>Before Changes</u>	<u>After Changes</u>	<u>Change</u>
Cash/ Equivalents	14.5%	16.3%	+1.8%
Intermediate Term Bonds	8.9%	12.8%	+3.9%
REITs (Real Estate)	35.7%	29.2%	-6.5%
Equities	<u>40.9%</u>	<u>41.7%</u>	+0.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	

## Texas Mayflower Investment Value (As of end Feb. of each Year)



### Proposal for the Texas Mayflower Board of Assistants to create a 2020 Texas Mayflower Fund

**Purpose:** To significantly enhance our ability to support good scholarships and education activities and to bring attention to the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Texas of the Mayflower landing

#### Recommended features:

- An extended 4-year period of solicitation to give potential donors notice and the ability to plan future gifts
- Enable significant memorial gifts in honor on members
- Solicitation of members in the annual dues solicitations communications as well as via newsletter articles
- Initial goals to communicate
  - Raise the amount of the annual Texas Mayflower scholarship to \$5,000
  - Raise the amount of the annual Texas Mayflower 2<sup>nd</sup> scholarship to \$3,000
  - Provide an added amount of \$1,000/ year for other educational efforts perhaps including
    - Museum boxes for each colony to give to their local school district to enhance telling of the Mayflower story.
    - Support of a graduate student project on Mayflower history

**Duration:** Four years starting immediately and continuing through year-end 2020.

**What is needed:**

1. Commitment by the Board of Assistants to embark on and support such an effort
2. Create a solicitation brochure to use in communicating what the purpose and uses of this funding will be.
3. Create a separate record of these gifts in order to give recognition after 4 years and each year in the newsletter.

**The Board of Assistants approved the creation of a 2020 Texas Mayflower Fund at yesterday's meeting.**

**The following recommendations regarding the newly created 2020 Texas Mayflower Fund were approved for presentation to the General Assembly.**

1. **The BOA should seek gifts to the Society in the principal amount of \$125,000 to provide a sustainable \$5,000/ year increase in support of Mayflower education and scholarships.**
2. **Toward that end a committee should be appointed consisting of a chair and at least one representative from the following colonies: San Antonio, Dallas-Ft. Worth, Houston and Central Texas.**

Following the reports of the Finance Committee, the Audit Committee and the Endowment Committee, Governor Denham called for acceptance of the Committee Recommendations.

**Finances Committee Recommendations:** Secretary pro tem Hill announced that the recommendations of the Finance committee had been approved by the BOA for presentation to the general meeting and asked if the group would like to hear them read again. Hearing no request, Gov. Denham asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he called for the vote. **The recommendations passed.**

**Audit Committee Recommendations:** Secretary pro tem Hill announced that the recommendations of the Audit Committee had been approved by the BOA for presentation to the general meeting and asked if the group would like to hear them read again. Hearing no request, Gov. Denham asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he called for the vote. **The recommendations passed.**

**Endowment Committee Recommendations:** Secretary pro tem Hill announced that the recommendations of the Endowment Committee had been approved by the BOA for presentation to the general meeting and asked if the group would like to hear them read again. Hearing no request, Gov. Denham asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he called for the vote. **The recommendations passed.**

Gov. Denham called for the Reports of the Colony Governors.

**COLONY GOVERNOR REPORTS**

**REPORT OF THE CENTRAL TEXAS COLONY: Governor Dwight Benson**

**REPORT OF THE DALLAS/FT WORTH COLONY: Governor Prarie Counce**

The Dallas/Fort Worth Colony currently has 123 members.

The Compact Day Luncheon held in November 2015 was attended by 102 people. Texas State Mayflower Governor Rick Denham was the guest speaker.

The Spring picnic and birthday party (the Colony is 70 years old this year) will be held at a beautiful park and rose gardens in Farmers Branch, TX on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.

The DFW Colony has a very active Education Committee. Members visit schools and libraries telling audiences of the Plymouth Pilgrims and providing education material to both teachers and students. Education Committee members provide displays during the month of November in several DFW area libraries. Members are also working on a project called "traveling museum boxes" that are provided to school libraries for use in classrooms.

The DFW Colony is just beginning to focus more on Junior members. Junior members are now encouraged to attend both the Compact Day Luncheon and the Spring meeting where an activity table will be provided for them. An ice cream social for them is planned for the summer.

Our newsletters are posted under the Dallas/Fort Worth Colony section of the Texas Mayflower Society website.

#### **REPORT OF THE HOUSTON COLONY: Governor Leah Davis**

National Officers, State Officers, Governors, State Chairmen and Members

It delights me to report from the Houston Colony. In March we hosted the State Meeting and returned \$4 to the State Society from the funds given Houston Colony. We had a delightful time with Lea Filson. Bart and Jane Henson hosted a lovely reception for Lea, Ron and officers. Our Governor General's foray into Mexican food consisted of Taco Bell, so she was treated to some authentic Mexican food. We enjoyed a Junior oriented luncheon with everyone in Pilgrim Collars and learning to speak Dutch as well as play games. They had such a great time they are ready to return!! The Banquet was excellent with Lea giving her thoughts for the future.

The April Meeting was excellent; a new location has been established. Our Colony is growing by leaps and bounds and we needed a place that could hold us. We planned on 80, but there was insufficient room, this April we have taken the whole facility. Charles Prince our Scholarship Chairman presented the award to Austin Davis, a silent auction supports our Scholarship program, our principal endowment has yet to be touched for this. Rick Denham gave our program stressing the importance of Juniors and launched his "Hit me with a brick" program.

The Houston Colony was well represented at the Pilgrim Festival. The Compact Dinner was covered by a local paper with a very large circulation. Suggested to the reporter but not covered in the write up was our very engaging program. Our own Gloria Hunter, wife of member John Hunter Jr. gave a riveting program on herbs and the uses they serve. Gloria is a Master Gardener and a longtime member of the Herb Society. This was one of our most popular programs as we had 130 in attendance.

We have a very busy Junior group, and if you don't know Peggy Marsh by now you will know her soon, she is fabulous!! We have a very busy Membership Chairman. Sandy Sauers, who has done a great job with a cheerful invitation to join our Colony, and she is bringing those new members in.

Our April Meeting is exciting for the Houston Colony. Thanks to one of our members who made a donation to Plimoth Plantation. When called, to thank him, they mentioned they had wanted to come to Houston, and he passed on the idea. From there it took some work and coordinating, but the Interpreters will be in Houston from Plimoth Plantation and will be doing "An Afternoon with the Allertons." We invite anyone who would like to attend to get their reservations in early as seating will be limited to 200, and our group takes up a large portion. Please contact our Treasure, Treasurer Nancy Keith either by phone or e-mail, the early bird gets the seats!!

For possibly the most important part of my Governor's year. The Executive who makes decisions on exhibits with the Houston Museum of Natural Science will be in attendance at the April meeting as well. She is enthusiastic, and I have put her in touch with the correct person at Plimoth Plantation to possibly have a Mayflower exhibit at the Museum for our Quad Centennial in 2020

#### **REPORT OF THE SAN ANTONIO COLONY: Governor Debbie Werner**

The San Antonio Colony of Mayflower Descendants met four times in the last year- May, August, and November 2015 and February 2016. Each of our meetings were held at Los Patios Restaurant. Each meeting features a guest speaker with a program of historic interest. Presently we have 60 paid members and have several pending applicants.

Our colony Education Committee distributed books and teacher packets to elementary schools in the Comal Independent School District. This is the second year we have targeted this district. We will have covered all 18 elementary schools in the district at the end of this year.

Our next colony meeting will be held on May 7. Our guest speaker, Paul Noack, will present Coastal Cowboys and Cattle Trails, a program focusing on the eastern cattle trails to New Orleans.

**REPORT OF THE TYLER COLONY:** Governor James Walker

**REPORT OF THE WACO COLONY:** Governor Ann Harder: absent no report

**REPORT OF THE WEST TEXAS COLONY:** Governor Lori Holbrooks

#### **CONTINUATION OF THE STATE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**REPORT OF THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE:** Chairman Lisa Pennington read the proposed changes.

#### **(1) Article III Membership Sec 5 Resignation, Reinstatement, & Forfeiture C. Forfeitures.**

Amend by striking "the dues for the year in which the membership was forfeited".

**CURRENT:** A former member who forfeited membership for nonpayment of dues and desires to be reinstated shall make application in writing to the Corresponding Secretary. The former member will resume membership upon payment of the current year's dues ~~plus the dues for the year in which the membership was forfeited.~~

**PROPOSED:** A former member who forfeited membership for nonpayment of dues and desires to be reinstated shall make application in writing to the Corresponding Secretary. The former member will resume membership upon payment of the current year's dues plus a reinstatement fee equal to the current year's dues

**Rationale:** Clarifies the amount due as dues were possibly different in the year the membership was forfeited.

Chairman Pennington moved for the adoption of this amendment. Governor Denham asked if there was any discussion. There being none, **the vote was called and motion passed.**

**(2) Article IV Officers 5. General Society Representatives.**

Amend by striking “and elected” and inserting or General Board of Assistants meeting if the terms of the existing DGG and AG are expiring. The terms of the DGG and AG are three (3) years.

**CURRENT:** The Deputy Governor General (DGG) and the Assistant General (AG) shall be nominated ~~and elected~~ by a majority vote of the Society, subject to Article VI, Section 5, of the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Society, at the Annual Meeting preceding the Triennial Congress

**PROPOSED:** The Deputy Governor General (DGG) and the Assistant General (AG) shall be nominated by a majority vote of the Society, subject to Article VI, Section 5, of the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Society, at the Annual Meeting preceding the Triennial Congress or General Board of Assistants meeting if the terms of the existing DGG and AG are expiring. The terms of the DGG and AG are three (3) years

**Rationale:** The General Board of Assistants elects these representatives.

Chairman Pennington moved for the adoption of this amendment. Governor Denham asked if there was any discussion. There being none, **the vote was called and motion passed.**

**(3) Section 6 Duties of Offices C. The Recording Secretary Shall**

Amend by striking Newsletter Editor and inserting the Webmaster

**CURRENT:** 2. Maintain a list of all motions passed in the Annual Meeting and meetings of the Board of Assistants/Directors and mail a copy to the Governor/President and Newsletter Editor within ten (10) days following the meeting

**PROPOSED:** 2. Maintain a list of all motions passed in the Annual Meeting and meetings of the Board of Assistants/Directors and mail a copy to the Governor/President and the Webmaster within ten (10) days following the meeting

**Rationale:** Along with the change to the Newsletter Committee section, this allows the posting of motions from the annual meeting to the website where they can be easily accessed and archived and allow more space in the Spring Newsletter for more interesting information for our membership.

Chairman Pennington moved for the adoption of this amendment. Governor Denham asked if there was any discussion. There being none, the vote was called and motion passed.

**(4) Section 6 Duties of Officers E. The Treasurer Shall**

Amend 3 by striking “and co-signature” and inserting “documented” and strike 8 entirely.

**CURRENT:** 3. Make all necessary disbursements upon approval and ~~co-signature~~ of the Governor/President.

8. ~~Send a yearly report to the Recording Secretary not later than December 31.~~

**PROPOSED:** Make all necessary disbursements upon documented approval of the Governor/President.

**Rationale:** The financial institutions do not require two signatures on Society checks. Bills can be unnecessarily delayed when the Governor/President is not readily available to co-sign the checks. Late penalties have occurred due to these delays. The Treasurer files a yearly report with the Recording Secretary at the end of the fiscal year prior to the Annual Meeting. The filing of two reports is redundant.

Chairman Pennington moved for the adoption of this amendment. Governor Denham asked if there was any discussion. There being none, **the vote was called and motion passed.**

**(5) Section 6 Duties of Officers F. The Co-Historians Shall**

Amend 1 and 14 by striking entirely and inserting a new item 19

**CURRENT** (1) ~~Be custodian of all lineage papers and have custody of the Preliminary Application (PA) forms and Application Review Forms (ARFs).~~

(14) ~~Keep on file all Application Review, Regular, Supplemental, Junior, and Life Membership forms.~~

**PROPOSED (19).** Scan the documents associated with approved applications and send the digital files and digital copies of the approved applications to the Digital Archivist to be included in the digital records of the Society.

**Rational:** These amendments reflect the role of Archivist who now maintains the Society's records.

Chairman Pennington moved for the adoption of this amendment. Governor Denham asked if there was any discussion. There being none, **the vote was called and motion passed.**

**(6) Section 6 Duties of Officers F. The Co-Historians Shall**

Amend 8, 9, and 10 by striking Historian General and inserting Plymouth. Further amend 9 by striking "two"

**CURRENT:**

8. Approve or reject each applicant's lineage worksheet and documentation before sending it to ~~the Historian General.~~

9. Send the ~~two~~ completed applications to Plymouth ~~the Historian General~~, along with one complete set of documentation.

10. Upon approval, ~~the Historian General~~ will return one lineage paper with revisions to be made to the State Historian to be kept in the State Society files.

**PROPOSED:**

8. Approve or reject each applicant's lineage worksheet and documentation before sending it to Plymouth.

9. Send the completed application to Plymouth along with one complete set of documentation

10. Upon approval, Plymouth will return one lineage paper with revisions to be made to the State Historian to be kept in the State Society files.

**Rationale:** These amendments reflect current procedures in Plymouth. The Historian General no longer lives in Plymouth and no longer receives the applications directly from the state societies

Chairman Pennington moved for the adoption of this amendment. Governor Denham asked if there was any discussion. There being none, **the vote was called and motion passed.**

**(7) Section 6 Duties of Officers F. The Co-Historians Shall**

Amend by striking 21 entirely

**CURRENT:** 19. ~~21. Make a yearly report to the Recording Secretary no later than December 31. This report shall include the information listed in #13 above.~~

**Rationale** The Co-Historian files a yearly report with the Recording Secretary prior to the Annual Meeting. The filing of two reports is redundant. Note the entire Co-Historian section will be renumbered based on the actions of the Annual Meeting.

Chairman Pennington moved for the adoption of this amendment. Governor Denham asked if there was any discussion. There being none, **the vote was called and motion passed.**

**(8) Article VIII. Committees Section 1. Standing Committees**

Amend by striking “and” and inserting “and Scholarship”.

**CURRENT:** There shall be the following Standing Committees composed of not fewer than three (3) members each (except the Nominating Committee; see Article V, Section 1): Finance, Education, Bylaws, Awards, Newsletter/Publications, Public Relations, Auditing, Nominating, Junior Membership, Endowment, and Library.

**PROPOSED:** There shall be the following Standing Committees composed of not fewer than three (3) members each (except the Nominating Committee; see Article V, Section 1): Finance, Education, Bylaws, Awards, Newsletter/Publications, Public Relations, Auditing, Nominating, Junior Membership, Endowment, Library, and Scholarship.

**Rational:** Adds the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee to the Board of Assistants

Chairman Pennington moved for the adoption of this amendment. Governor Denham asked if there was any discussion. There being none, **the vote was called and motion passed.**

**(9) Section VIII Standing Committees E. The Newsletter/Publications Committee**

Amend by striking sentence 5 entirely.

**CURRENT:** ~~A list of the motions presented at the Annual and Board of Assistants/Directors Meetings and their disposition shall be published in the Newsletter after approval by the Governor/President.~~ **Rationale:** See Rationale under relevant section of new Recording Secretary duties

Chairman Pennington moved for the adoption of this amendment. Governor Denham asked if there was any discussion. There being none, **the vote was called and motion passed.**

**(10) Section VIII Standing Committees**

Amend by inserting New Item L duties.

**PROPOSED:** The Scholarship Committee shall administer the Society Scholarship according to their adopted guidelines and award the scholarship/scholarships during the banquet at the Annual Meeting.

**Rationale:** Assigns duties to the Scholarship Committee.

Chairman Pennington moved for the adoption of this amendment. Governor Denham asked if there was any discussion. There being none, **the vote was called and motion passed.**

Motion made by Chairman Pennington to allow the committee to make any editorial, numbering and grammatical changes as necessary. **Motion passed.**

**(11) PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING RULES.**

Proposal to Eliminate Standing Rules 9 and 17. Each rule was read in its entirety and is presented here.

~~9. The appropriate Co-Historian shall be paid at the rate of Twenty dollars (\$20.00) each for the processing of original and supplemental applications, upon approval of the application by the General Society and after a copy of the approved application and welcome letter have been sent to the new member. In the event that an application is rejected, the Co-Historian shall be paid after a copy of the rejected application and explanation have been sent to the applicant. Junior applications shall be paid at the rate of Five dollars (\$5.00) each upon assignment of a TX Junior number, and after a copy of the approved application and welcome letter have been sent to the new Junior member.~~



~~17. The Governor shall appoint an Annual Meeting Liaison to be ratified by the Board of Assistants and who is responsible for the following duties:~~

- ~~A. Guide each host colony in planning for the Annual Meeting and review the draft colony budget for the meeting.~~
- ~~B. Establish, with Board of Assistants approval, such guidelines and suggestions for Annual Meetings including arrangements and ancillary activities which would generate interest in attendance at the Annual Meetings.~~
- ~~C. Establish, with Board of Assistants approval, the responsibilities of the local host colony and of the state society concerning the Annual Meetings so as to provide clarity of roles.~~
- ~~D. Work with the Counselor to draft an annual resolution to delegate the state meeting authority to sign contracts related to the Annual Meeting to enable that the colony could sign such contracts with exemption from the Texas state sales tax.~~
- ~~E. Work with the host colony after the Annual Meeting to insure that a timely report is filed by the host colony including information about hosting the meeting and which would especially include financial results of the meeting so as to assist planning for future Annual Meetings.~~

Chairman Pennington moved that Standing rules 9 and 17 be eliminated in their entirety and that all subsequent rules be renumbered. Governor Denham asked if there was any discussion. There being none, **the vote was called and motion passed.**

**REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE:** Chairman Leah Davis. Report read.

Mayflower Colonies in The State of Texas have touched the lives of thousands of children in the current year. Colonies have donated many books and have put on presentations, made Museum boxes, window displays and read to children at Libraries.

Mayflower is NOT a Thanksgiving only event. This Chairman will challenge all of you to make it a year round activity. When did they leave? When was their starving time, the different dates when things happened. Our Ancestors lived through the year. They should be remembered all year long, not just at Thanksgiving. During the summer, this Chairman encourages you to visit the Libraries and volunteer to read (our books of course) to the children. In the Spring time tell about Squanto living with the Pilgrims and how he helped them plant crops (give each child a seed or two to plant in the Spring). Make this an all year event. Let's put some meat on their bones and teach the children that they laughed and cried, loved and really lived. Children tend to look at them as names on a page, let's really introduce our Ancestors.

Of the eight Colonies, two did not choose to benefit from the State Education Budget. The larger Colonies benefited from their lack. I am very proud of D/FW, Houston, Central Texas, Corpus Christi, West Texas, and San Antonio who benefited in that order. There are \$500 in Education Funds, for each colony and Central Texas only left .60 of the \$500. Out of \$4,000.00 budgeted only \$3,129.19 was used, leaving a total of \$870.81 which could have been spent educating children. This Chairman encourages you to spread Mayflower through the year. Please use all of your budgeted amount, when you do not, we are missing sharing our story with many more children.

Appreciation goes to D/FW, Central Texas, Corpus Christi, and Houston for the Education Reports. Your Education Chairman sincerely appreciates the cooperation and assistance of all the Colonies.

**REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE:** Chairman Linda Hill. Report read.

I would like to start by saying that the previous committee, consisting of Judie Allen, Leah Davis and Nancy Parker, did an outstanding job. Following their recommendation, I proceeded to get a set of Silver books into a Library in Beaumont, TX. There are a couple of Libraries in their system. The Library I chose is the Tyrrell Historical Library. Because it is a research library, none of the books in its collections circulate.

The eleven libraries that we already service received new publications from Plymouth, however, there were not as many new releases this year as we had anticipated. The new books that were published and sent out this past year were: William Brewster V. 24, John Alden V.16 – Part 4 (Ruth Alden Bass) and George Soule four Generations 7<sup>th</sup> edition. The total amount of these books was \$990.00. The bill for the complete set of new books for the Tyrrell Historical Library (which included as discount of 33%) was \$1157.20. Of the \$3000 budget, the total amount spent was \$2057.20.

**REPORT OF THE JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** Chairman Peggy Marsh. Report read.

In April 2015, questionnaires were sent to those Junior sponsors whose email addresses were passed from the previous Junior Committee. Approximately seventy-five sponsors responded throughout the summer which provided updated contact information for the Junior and the Junior sponsor. Many were not returned and another questionnaire will be sent to those sponsors this summer. By using the Texas Society Yearbook, phone calls were also made to about twenty with two returned calls. The contact information obtained will provide the Junior with education and information regarding our Pilgrim ancestors and Junior activities.

The Texas Junior, as well as their sponsors, have received and will continue to receive historical stories, titled, "Today in Our History". For example, they have received stories of the 66-day voyage and anchoring at Cape Cod, the First Feast, the building of Plymouth and in March they received the story of Samoset making a surprise visit to Plymouth. On April 5, the Juniors and their sponsors will receive the story of the cargo ship, the *Mayflower*, its return trip England three hundred ninety-five years ago. Their parents and sponsors are urged to print and save the stories for future sharing with friends, for reports in school and one day, to share with their own children! At this time, all Junior Chairmen in our partner societies receive the same stories. This is a way for cross-country "cousins" to generate dialogue about their shared ancestors.

In March, Governor Denham selected our first Texas Junior Family Historian. Governor Denham's vision for initiating dialogue between the Junior and a family historian was artfully realized by Jason Sharer who attends Houston Colony activities but is a DFW member where his grandmother and sponsor, is a DFW Colony member. The name of the competition was "Hit Me with a Brick, I Didn't Know That". Jason Sharer was awarded a brick that Governor Denham has ordered, with his name and Texas Junior Family Historian, 2016 on the stone. It will be placed this summer on the Garden Walkway in Plymouth at the Mayflower Society House. Governor Denham is responsible for indexing all names on the Walkway. It is easy to see where he received his inspiration for the title of the composition contest. The Texas Juniors will have another composition competition and they will be asked to talk to a family historian and then write about their own Pilgrim ancestor.

Each November and May, the Junior Committee provides Juniors with a newsletter named *Cousins*, a name that Junior, Catherine Davis gave our newsletter. *Cousins* has information about and for Juniors, Plymouth 2020 updates, historical facts, scholarship information and games.

We have had 46 new Juniors in the past year. Each Junior receives a certificate, a welcome letter, a parchment copy of the Mayflower Compact and a Mayflower Descendant bumper sticker while supplies last! The bumper stickers are compliments of Waco Colony who shared some of their surplus with Texas Juniors.

Emails have been sent to Junior members and their sponsors who are nearing the age of Adult Status inviting them to become a member in our GSMD. They also receive a Preliminary Application for Adult membership,

The Junior Committee believes that our Juniors are our future. There is no other way to put it ... period. As a member of this society, you feel an inclusion since you are here. Our Juniors must also feel inclusion to become a part, no matter what age. The Junior Committee adheres to the belief that Juniors should be furnished with education, information and inclusion. The committee provides the education and information and will and does provide any help necessary to the colonies for inclusion of our Juniors.

**REPORT OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE:** Chairman Judie Allen. Absent no report

**REPORT OF THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE:** Chairman Pat Nichols

This Committee published three newsletters and the 2015-2017 Texas Society Yearbook during the 2015-2016 Mayflower year. One of the goals of the Newsletter Editor for this term is to increase the number of digital subscribers to the newsletter. This effort will continue into the next year. Another goal was to print more news from the colonies and this effort met with some success. The newsletters were sent to the Webmaster for posting on the Texas Mayflower website. Our members can always see the color version of our newsletter there.

The Chairman wishes to thank Mike Nichols for the great job that he did on the Yearbook.

**REPORT OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE:** Chairman Dwight Benson announced that there are at least one or more persons who will receive an award at tonight's banquet.

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:** Chairman Leah Davis. No report but requested that all members stay for a very short meeting before the Luncheon

**BREAK FOR LUNCH. 11:30**

**THE ANNUAL MEETING, reconvened by Gov. Denham at 2:15, continued with Reports of the Special and Appointed Committee Chairs**

**REPORT OF THE STATE ARCHIVIST:** Laurie Behn: Absent no report

**REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:** read by Charles Prince

On May 14th, the scholarship committee met in Tyler, TX to bring the scholarship procedures up to date and to set dates and deadlines for procedures to be followed.

During the year colony governors were notified as what needed to be done regarding the scholarships. The scholarship procedures were also published in the newsletter.

Scholarship applications were sent out to several possible student applicants. Six scholarships applications were received and review by the special selection committee made of up of three teachers.

Scholarships will be awarded Saturday, April 2, 2016 at the annual conference in San Antonio. There will be two scholarships awarded which will be first place and runner-up.

Submitted by Scholarship committee, Madeline Alworth, Ron Carter, Richard Smith, Chairman

This year's winner, **Hannah Gooden**, is still waiting to see if she will be accepted at Rice University or Georgia Tech. The runner up, **Hannah Wetterau**, will be attending the University of Texas. Unfortunately, neither winner is able to attend the banquet this evening.

**REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING LIAISON:** Mary Eck: Report filed and presented here  
As Liaison for the Annual State meeting I have worked closely with the San Antonio Colony Governor who very competently has planned this meeting with the assistance of the Colony members. They have planned well for you and I know you will enjoy being here at the Menger Hotel and in San Antonio

I prepared the guidelines for the State and Colony responsibilities which were approved and are now a part of the Standing Rules on page 150-151.

A final financial report of the expenditures for this meeting is in progress and will be sent to the proper officers when completed.

**Report of the 2020 Committee:** Chairman Lisa Pennington: No report

**Report of the Webmaster:** Charles Prince. No Report.  
Governor Denham asked if there was any old business that needed to be addressed. None was brought up. Gov. Denham asked if there was any new business to be brought before the group. None was brought up.

**Meeting was recessed at 2:30.**

## **BANQUET**

The members were called to order by Gov. Denham at 7:00 pm. San Antonio Elder, Marie Schmutz gave the blessing. San Antonio Colony Governor Debbie Warner welcomed all.

After a lovely dinner, Gov. Werner introduced the Speaker, Susan Snow, whose program "Why the San Antonio Missions Are Worthy of World Heritage Designation" explained both the importance of and the process involved in the selection of a World Heritage Designation. After a very informative program and a short question and answer session, Gov. Werner thanked Ms. Snow and presented her with a gift.

The Mayflower Compact was read by Mike Byrne and the Ancestor Roll was called by Barbara Sheffer.

Dwight Benson, Chairman of the Awards Committee, presented the Annual Award to Dallas Fort Worth Colony Governor Prarie Counce.

Gov. Denham noted that the State Scholarship Committee had award two scholarships. The first place winner, Hannah Gooden, will receive \$3000 and second place winner, Hannah Wetterau, will receive \$1000. As neither recipient could be present, Gov. Denham read the winning essay entitled "what my Mayflower Ancestor means to me".

Gov. Denham noted that he had also started a contest for Juniors. In this instance the Junior "Family Historian" is honored by having a brick, with their name on it placed in the Garden Walkway in Plymouth. Because the first winner of that award, Jason Sharer, was not able to be present, Gov. Denham read his report.

The resolutions of Respect were read by State Secretary Pro Tem Linda Hill

Whereas, The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Texas met in session for its Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas, April 1-2, 2016, and

Whereas, the San Antonio Colony serving as host, provided a meeting of great benefit, inspiration, entertainment and fellowship, and

Whereas, Members of the San Antonio Colony, the 2016 Planning Committee Michael Byrne, Peggy Durack, Mary Eck, Peggy Jared, Barbara Kyse, Marie Schmutz, Mary Ann Stark, Kathy Toten, Barbara Warnock, Debbie Werner and many volunteers, gave unselfishly of their time, energy, dedication and support to make this a productive, memorable and enjoyable State Meeting, and

Whereas, the Menger Hotel, and its gracious staff, provided outstanding historical accommodations and meals during our stay,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that this 2016 Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants State Meeting express its appreciation for the courtesies shown to our group.

Governor, I move the adoption of these Resolutions. The resolutions were seconded and adopted.

Central Colony Gov. Dwight Benson invited all present to next year's state meeting which will be held near Austin.

Several door prizes were given out by Debbie Werner. Governor Denham thanked everyone for being in attendance. The benediction was given by San Antonio Elder Marie Schmutz and Gov. Denham adjourned the meeting.