

San Diego Colony of the Mayflower Descendants in the State of California Minutes of the Colony Meeting: November 16, 2024

The Compact Day meeting was called to order at 11:30 am by Governor William “Budd” Leef. Invocation was given by Colony Elder, Ken Whittemore. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Historian & Past Governor, Kathy Loftman. The Pilgrim Pledge was led by Deputy Governor, Martha Anderson.

Governor Leef explained the historical background of *The Mayflower Compact*, which was read by Bill Smith.

Governor Leef welcomed everyone, thanked all military veterans and families for their service and asked anyone in Pilgrim attire to join in a group photo.

The Governor recognized State Officers present: Amy Conboy, Junior Committee Chair; Ray & Gail Raser, current Editors of the California Mayflower Quarterly and many past offices, including Ray’s service as CA State Governor. Governor Leef acknowledged past Colony Governors: Rick Bailey, Kathy Loftman, Gail & Ray Raser, Judith Reale, and Ken Whittemore.

The Ancestor roll call was taken by Sharon Gardner, Colony Secretary, and Renee Neale, Membership Chair. Pilgrims John Howland and Francis Cooke were tied, each with 10 descendants present.

Ken Whittemore led us in a meal blessing. A traditional Thanksgiving meal was served.

Martha Anderson introduced our guest speaker, Fred Grand. He is the author of “Spilled Blood and Bloodlines, Riveting True Stories of San Diego History from our First People, the Kumeyaay, to the Present.” Mr. Grand is President of the Old Town Chamber of Commerce and Director of Community Engagement for Descendants of Early San Diego. He is also a proud member of the Kumeyaay Nation of San Diego, and his unique ancestry prompted a personalized overview of 12,000 years of habitation in San Diego. Governor Leef and Martha Anderson thanked him and awarded him a Certificate of Appreciation.

Amy Conboy, Colony Education Chair, conducted an Opportunity Drawing for 20 prizes. The drawing was to benefit the San Diego Colony Scholarship Program. Candidates are chosen from high school or college freshmen with direct Mayflower ancestry and recipients are announced in May. She reported \$284 were raised. Thanks go to John & Lori Meanley who donated a model ship to the Colony. Amy also promoted Junior Memberships available to descendants from birth to age 18. Please visit the Mayflower

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State website for more info. Amy and Keira Green, a Junior Member, suggested creating a remembrance rock garden, inspired by Plymouth Rock. They displayed sample rocks personalized with Pilgrim names.

Officer Reports & Announcements will be posted on the Colony website.

A Benediction was offered by Ken Whittemore.

Governor Leef closed the meeting at 2:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Gardner
Recording Secretary