

San Diego Colony of the Mayflower Descendants in the State of California Minutes of the Colony Meeting: February 15, 2025

The Winter meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Governor William “Budd” Leef. The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were led by Deputy Governor, Martha Anderson. The Pilgrim Pledge was led by the Hospitality Chair, June Carter.

Governor Leef welcomed all Pilgrim cousins and colony friends with special acknowledgement to veterans and active-duty military. Governor Leef welcomed our guest speaker, Valarie LaBore and her modeling assistant, Shannon Bacon.

The Governor recognized California State officers: Amy Conboy Junior Membership and Education Chair; Ray & Gail Raser, both past Colony Governors and current Editors of the California Mayflower Quarterly and San Diego newsletter as well as Ray’s service as CA State Governor. Governor Leef acknowledged past Colony and State Governor and current Elder, Ken Whittemore, who was unable to attend today. The Governor welcomed members from other Colonies.

Governor Leef recognized and thanked the current Colony Board: Deputy Governor - Martha Anderson, Secretary - Sharon Gardner, Treasurer - Connie Bloodworth, Corresponding Secretary - Judith Reale, Elder - Ken Whittemore, Historians - Bev Willey and Kathy Loftman, Membership Chair - Renee Neale, Webmaster - Bud Leef, Delegate to State - Gail Raser, Education Chair - Amy Conboy, Parliamentarians - Judith Reale and Bill Smith and Hospitality Chair - June Carter.

Governor Leef introduced Amy Conboy, Education Chair, who is selling tickets for today’s Opportunity Drawing to benefit the San Diego Colony and State Scholarship Programs.

The Ancestor roll call was taken by Renee Neale, Membership Chair, and Co-Historian Bev Willey. Pilgrim William Brewster had the most descendants present with ten.

State Delegate, Gail Raser, reported on the upcoming CA General Membership meeting in Burbank on June 21. She explained that eight new State officers will be elected for a 2-year term. There are also several positions to be filled by appointment. She encouraged anyone wanting to get involved at the State level to contact her. In addition, she asked for anyone with an interest in publishing to consider stepping forward to fill vacancies on the staff of the Colony Newsletter and State Quarterly.

Martha Anderson led us in a meal blessing before a breakfast buffet was served.

Governor Leef and Deputy Governor Anderson introduced Valarie LaBore and Shannon Bacon. Ms. LaBore presented “History’s Revolutionary Fashion, 1740-1910” and Ms. Bacon modeled her re-creations. Ms. LaBore is a member of the Los Angeles Guild West Costumers and has been making her own historical costumes since 2003. She was the Dean of Costume College, a 4-day costume seminar, and a past President of the San Diego Costume Guild. Ms. LaBore has been teaching, writing, and directing historical fashion shows for the past 10 years. Governor Leef and Martha Anderson thanked our guests and awarded Ms. LaBore a Certificate of Appreciation.

Governor Leef introduced Neil Greenwood and asked that he report on his Mayflower research. Mr. Greenwood traveled to Watford, Northamptonshire, England to delve into the history of Thomas Rogers. Mr. Greenwood invited guests to sign up for his book, [Roots of Thomas Rogers, Mayflower Pilgrim](#). He will send a free eBook to those interested. Governor Leef announced Mr. Greenwood will present his findings at our November meeting.

Governor Leef welcomed new members and asked Membership Chair, Renee Neale, to introduce two members attending their first meeting: Tracey Armin of William Bradford descent and Barbara Thomas of William Brewster descent. They were presented with a gift bag, and a photo was taken to commemorate the day.

The State Society reported on four new San Diego memberships from Dec. 2024 – Jan. 2025: Jonathan, Matthew, and Michael Hall - each 13th from Myles Standish, Terry Dickinson - 12th from Wiliam Brewster

Officer Reports

Amy Conboy, Education Chair, reported \$134 was collected from the drawing today. Members were reminded that high school seniors or college freshmen with direct Mayflower lineage may apply for a scholarship. Applications are due by May 1 and the awards will be announced at the May meeting.

The Governors stated it is especially important that dues are current. The State will no longer carry members who are behind on dues. If you are behind, contact the State Treasurer to be reinstated. If you are uncertain of your status, email him at budd.leef@gmail.com and he will check and verify with the State. Life memberships are a financial liability for the State and are no longer available. Previously approved Life Members are encouraged to make an annual donation to offset substantial fee increases.

Junior Membership: Amy Conboy explained that Junior Members must be sponsored by a current member, be under eighteen and a direct line descendant. Of the 14 CA Colonies, San Diego was awarded a plaque for the most new Junior Members in 2024.

Treasurer's report: Connie Bloodworth stated the Colony is in good standing. New software has been installed and all audit issues with our CA taxes have been resolved. The Colony has \$24,406 in checking and a savings balance of \$1,252.

Delegate to State, Quarterly & Newsletter Editor: Gail Raser noted our Governor General, Lisa Pennington, will speak at the General Membership meeting on June 21 in Burbank.

Judith Reale, Corresponding Secretary, requested that any Mayflower stories, travel stories or items of interest and photos be submitted to her no later than April 6 for the May newsletter.

Announcements

The **next Colony meeting** will be on Saturday, May 17. The guest speaker will discuss the best practices for organizing ancestry records.

Name Badges (\$14) may be ordered through June Carter. Contact info is found in the Pilgrim Newsletter.

A Colony Decorations Chair is needed. If you are artistic, please consider volunteering to provide table centerpieces three times a year. There is an inventory of decorations available, and a budget can be provided. Judith Reale will furnish the centerpieces for the May and November meetings. Please contact her for more information.

Martha Anderson offered a Benediction.

Governor Leef thanked everyone who attended and participated. He closed the meeting at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Gardner
Recording Secretary