

San Diego Colony of the Mayflower Descendants in the State of California

Minutes of the Colony Meeting: May 17, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am by Governor William “Budd” Leef. The Invocation was given by Membership Chair, Renee Neale.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the State Delegate, Gail Raser. The Pilgrim Pledge was led by past Governor, Judith Reale.

Governor Leef welcomed all Pilgrim cousins and colony friends with belated Mother’s Day greetings and Father’s Day wishes. The Governor acknowledged veterans and first responders, with special mention to Russ Loftman, who just returned from an Honor Flight to Washington D.C. Governor Leef thanked them for their service to our country. He welcomed our guest speaker, Karan Jarrard, and our Colony Scholarship winner, Jonathan Norman and his family. The Governor recognized California State officers past and present: Ray & Gail Raser, both past Colony Governors and current Editors of the California Mayflower Quarterly and Ray’s service as CA State Governor, and Amy Conboy, Junior Membership and Education Chair. Amy chairs the Junior’s Committee for the General Society. Amy will sell tickets for today’s Opportunity Drawing to benefit the San Diego Colony and State Scholarship Programs.

Governor Leef said name badges can be ordered today from June Carter, Hospitality Chair.

Governor Leef and Deputy Governor Anderson introduced Karan Jarrard, who spoke on Life Story Writing. Ms. Jarrard presented a program entitled, “Everyone has a Story.” She detailed how each of us can identify, capture and document memories for future generations and provided handouts with suggestions and examples. For many years, Ms. Jarrard has worked to improve literacy, and she reads to the kindergarten class at Walt Whitman Elementary School every week. Ms. Jarrard is an Honorary State Regent of the DAR and has served as National Chair of 3 committees. Governor Leef and Martha Anderson thanked and awarded Ms. Jarrard a Certificate of Appreciation and an honorarium.

Renee Neale took the Ancestor Roll Call of the 48 members in attendance. The honor of most descendants present was a tie with William Brewster and Frances Cooke, each having 7.

Governor Leef and Renee Neale welcomed our new member, Kelly Trigueros, who is a descendant of Edward Fuller.

Renee Neale led us in a meal blessing before a lunch buffet was served.

Governor Leef and Amy Conboy introduced Jonathan Norman and congratulated him as this year's \$1500 scholarship recipient. John is a senior at San Clemente High School and will be attending Point Loma Nazarene University in the Fall. His winning essay was a story he wrote as a Pilgrim teenager experiencing the early years in Plymouth. John's essay was warmly applauded.

Officer Reports:

Governor Leef reported the Spring edition of San Diego Colony Pilgrim News has been distributed by email. He thanked Judith Reale for her efforts to publish this magazine and recognized Martha Anderson for sharing her Pilgrim story in it.

Governor Leef noted the 'Mayflower- America 250 Pilgrims to Patriots' program is underway. Any veteran, civil or military, serving during the Vietnam era from 1955 – 1975 is eligible for a special honorary lapel pin. More details to come.

Governor Leef announced the Colony will not march in the La Mesa Flag Day Parade due to a scheduling conflict. We look forward to participating next year.

Governor Leef said the Minutes of the November 2024 and February 2025 Colony meetings were approved by the Board and will be posted on our website.

Treasurer, Connie Bloodworth, reported our financial balances: checking account \$24,468.77; savings account \$1252.24 and a CA tax refund check in the amount \$1604 has been received.

State Delegate, Gail Raser, reminded all members to RSVP if they plan to attend the CA General Membership meeting in Burbank on June 21. She noted Lisa Pennington ESQ., Governor General, will speak and new State Officers will be installed. Dr. Robert Lincoln, currently CA Deputy Governor So., will become our State Governor. Make your reservation before June 1 and contact Gail if you would like to take part in a carpool.

Gail Raser reported that she and Ray Raser will step down as co-editors of the CA Mayflower Quarterly. They are seeking new volunteers to edit the Quarterly. Please contact her if you are interested.

Amy Conboy reported \$176 was collected from the drawing today. There will be a zoom meeting for all State Junior Committee Chairs on Monday. Amy noted that past scholarship winner, Dana Cooper, will be graduating Suma Cum Laude from Allegheny College this year.

In Memorium:

Governor Leef observed a moment of remembrance for these San Diego Colony members who have passed away this past year.

Frederick W. Pierce

George Leon Dusty

Judith Marie Swan

Renee Neale led us in a Celebration of Life prayer followed by a Benediction.

Governor Leef thanked everyone who attended and took part today. He closed the meeting at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Gardner

Recording Secretary