

San Diego Colony of the Mayflower Descendants in the State of California Minutes of the Colony Meeting: November 22, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am by Governor William “Budd” Leef. The invocation was delivered by Deputy Governor Martha Anderson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Gail Raser and the Pilgrim Pledge by Sharon Gardner. Governor Leef provided context on the Mayflower Compact, which was read by Renee Neale.

Governor Leef welcomed attendees, acknowledged military members, and recognized the guest speaker, Neil Greenwood. He welcomed members from other colonies and noted the State Secretary, Sharon Gardner and State Junior Membership Chair, Amy Conboy, were present. Governor Leef thanked past State and Colony Governors: Ray Raser, Rick Bailey, Jan Landt, Gail Raser, Kathy Loftman and Judith Reale for attending.

Governor Leef asked Amy Conboy to report on Scholarship and Junior Membership programs. She explained graduating seniors and college freshmen may apply. San Diego scholarship applications are due by May 1. Applications for State scholarships are due by March 1. The latest San Diego scholarship winner is now attending Pt. Loma Nazarene College. Amy, aided by her two granddaughters, sold raffle tickets. June Carter, Hospitality Chair, offered name badges for sale at the meeting or there are also purchase instructions in the newsletter.

Membership Chair, Renee Neale, conducted the traditional Ancestor Roll Call. The official winner with the most descendants present today was John Howland.

Martha Anderson introduced our guest speaker, Neil Greenwood, who has researched Thomas Rogers' genealogy. Mr. Greenwood's parents travelled the Himalayas with the British and Indian armies before settling in northern England. When he was 18, Neil travelled to America, his mother's homeland, in an area close to today's meeting. His program **Roots of Thomas Rogers: Mayflower Pilgrim**, highlighted added information he gleaned from his research in Northamptonshire, England. Mr. Greenwood personally funded the restoration of Watford Manor Court records which verified the correct Watford community for Thomas Rogers. Mr. Greenwood was awarded a stipend and a Certificate of Appreciation.

Dr. Robert Lincoln extended Thanksgiving wishes and encouraged members to reflect on the sacrifice and courage needed to make the 1620 sailing to Plymouth and the legacy of the Pilgrim Compact.

A blessing was offered by Martha Anderson, followed by a traditional Thanksgiving meal. During lunch, Vietnam Era Service pins were distributed. Opportunity winners were drawn and ticket sales totaled \$312 which will benefit the scholarship programs.

Renee Neale welcomed new members: Terri Kidd (Myles Standish), Callie Leef (John Howland), Judi Anibaldi (George Soule), Michael Huff (Edward Doty), and Deborah Isacksen (Wm Brewster).

Officer Reports

Governor Leef announced the latest edition of the Pilgrim News is available, and he thanked Judith Reale for her work on this publication.

The California Mayflower Society has partnered with the National America 250 organization on commemorative projects, including the Vietnam Era Military Service Pins Project and the 2026 Rose Parade float. Volunteers are needed to decorate the float, and information is provided on page 13 of the Quarterly.

Members were reminded to renew and pay their 2026 membership dues by January 1. Life Members should respond to State email requests to maintain their active status.

Beginning May 2026, there will be vacated positions in our colony for the next 2-year term. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on the Board or Chair or a committee, Governor Leef asked that you contact Martha Anderson or himself for more information.

A proposal was made to add informal meetings to the schedule. The Shakespeare Pub was suggested as a central location where members could meet and socialize. Please consider the idea and express your interest.

The next official Colony meeting will be Saturday, February 21, 2026.

Governor General, Robert Lincoln PhD, reported California is championing a campaign to fund the Meeting House repairs in Plymouth. You will hear more from Tawny Welch who will lead this fund-raising effort. The next General Meeting, which is open to all members, will be held in Plymouth in September. Watch for details and registration in March. California will host the 2028 General Meeting in Sacramento. Governor General Lincoln attended the General Meeting in San Antonio this past September for advance planning.

Kathy Watson will Chair hosting efforts and is looking for volunteers, especially in northern CA.

Colony Secretary, Sharon Gardner, reported the minutes from the meeting in May 2025, will be posted on the members-only website pending Board approval.

Treasurer, Connie Bloodworth, reported as of 10/24/25; our Savings balance was \$1,252.53. As of 10/31, our Checking balance was \$22,833.84.

State Junior Membership Chair, Amy Conboy reported CA has 317 Junior members and San Diego has 34 Juniors. Each Junior is sponsored and pays a one-time \$60 fee. They receive a welcome packet and honorary membership.

Martha Anderson offered a Benediction.

Governor Leef reminded members in-period attire to gather for a Pilgrim photo and wished everyone a wonderful holiday.

Governor Leef closed the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Gardner
Recording Secretary