Meeting Called To Order

Total in attendance: 11 Adult Wyoming Members, 4 Junior Members, 1 Member pending approval from GSMD, and 10 guests; Wyoming Officers present were Governor Elwood M. Porter, II, Treasurer Amber Orton, Historian Susan Bueckers, Captain Steve Roberts and Counsellor Philip Roberts. General Society Officers in attendance included Governor General Lea S. Filson and her husband Ron (from Louisiana), Assistant Governor General George P. Garmany (from Colorado), and Deputy Governor General Elwood M. Porter, II. Officers who were excused were Assistant General Mary Stoll, Secretary Jeanette Hursman, Elder Caroline Hert, and Surgeon Erick Salverson. Treasurer Amber Orton took the minutes in place of Secretary Jeanette Hursman who was unable to attend. Representatives from the Wyoming Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), Wyoming Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and three mountain men from the 1838 Rendezvous Association, as well as Riverton, Wyoming Mayor John L. Baker and his wife Marion, also attended.

The Meeting was called to order by Governor Elwood M. Porter, II at 1:08 pm. The delay was due to a small technical issue of preparing to stream the meeting live via Facebook Live on the Wyoming Mayflower Society Facebook page. This meeting was the first Annual Meeting to be streamed live over social media.

The Colors were presented by the Riverton, Wyoming American Legion.

Governor Porter led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance and in singing the “Star Spangled Banner”.

The welcome was given by Riverton, Wyoming Mayor John L. Baker.

The Invocation was given by Governor Elwood M. Porter, II.

The reading of the Mayflower Compact was given by William Conklin, Jr.

The Progenitor Roll Call was called by Historian Susan Bueckers. Of the 11 members and 4 Juniors present, 14 pilgrims were represented. Isaac Allerton (3), Mary Allerton (3), Mary Norris Allerton (3), William Brewster (3), James Chilton (1), Mrs. James Chilton (1), Francis Cooke (4), Edward Doty (2), Elizabeth Fisher Hopkins (1), Stephen Hopkins (2), Degory Priest (3), George Soule (3 Adults/4 Juniors), Richard Warren (4) Susanna White (1), William White (1).

The members and guests in attendance sang the first verse of “My Country ‘Tis Of Thee”.
Officer Reports

**Governor’s Report** - Elwood M. Porter, II

Governor Porter has held monthly conference calls with Society officers, filed an IRS form 990N (Electronic Notice for Tax-Exempt Organizations Not Required to File Form 990 or Form 990EZ), renewed the Wyoming Non-Profit license with the State of Wyoming, participated in quarterly Governor General conference calls; attended the General Board of Assistants (GBOA) meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, and distributed notes from GBOA meeting to all Wyoming Society Officers. He also made arrangements for 2017 Annual Meeting in Riverton.

Governor Porter also led the effort to update and revise the Constitution and Handbook; input was also gathered from Secretary General Susan Roser and Counselor General Richard S. Gilmore, Esq. Digital files were uploaded to the new Wyoming Mayflower Society website ([www.wyomingmayflowersociety.org](http://www.wyomingmayflowersociety.org)) and are available for Members to download for their own reference. Printed copies will be made available for a small printing and mailing fee to those who do not have access to or use the internet.

After considerable deliberation, the Board of Assistants voted to end future Life Membership options to those who do not already have that designation; this was done to ensure the future financial health of our Society. Current Life Members will retain their Life Member designation but are asked to pay the yearly General Assessment amount to the GSMD (currently $15).

We received permission from the Wyoming Trademark Division to use the Wyoming bucking horse and rider on the front of our Handbook.

Governor Porter also invited representatives from the Wyoming SAR and DAR to attend this year’s Annual Meeting so we could become acquainted with each other’s organizations. He also sent news releases of the 2017 Annual Meeting to the Laramie Boomerang, Cheyenne’s Wyoming Tribune Eagle, the Riverton Ranger, and Casper Star Tribune papers.

New membership cards were designed and printed to be sent to members upon payment of their annual dues; a new supply of Wyoming Society letterhead and envelopes were also printed and used for mailing of the Spring 2017 Cowboy Mayflower Log newsletter. Governor Porter encouraged members to keep a record of important information distributed in the newsletter so that they can stay informed. Members are also invited to check our new website for news and updates.

The Wyoming Mayflower Society website was redesigned by diligent efforts of several Society members. Governor Porter thanked those involved for their work on the Society’s behalf.
**Secretary Report** – Elwood M. Porter, II

In the absence of Secretary Hursman, the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting were read by Governor Porter. No changes or additions were offered to the 2016 Minutes. Sue Bueckers moved to have the 2016 Minutes approved as read. The motion was approved by Annette Withington. The 2016 Minutes are approved.

**Treasurer Report** – Amber Orton

Email addresses were requested from those in attendance in order to help reduce the amount of paper mailings sent to Wyoming Members. For those who still want to receive mailed copies of the newsletter, they will be able to continue to do so.

The new Wyoming Mayflower Society website has been launched; we will be able to pay our dues online beginning on October 1, 2017 (for those who create accounts on the new site). There are several pages on the new site that contain information on events, updates, genealogy information and even spotlights of Junior Members. Special care has been taken to make sure private information (especially of our Junior Members) is not available to those who have not created a member account and are not logged in.

The website also has a store page from which to order fund raising items online for our members and Junior Members alike. Items include apparel, mugs, stickers, blankets, phone and office accessories, and many other items. Copies of the logos to be printed on the many various items were on display inside the meeting room. Our Society has made an arrangement with the online store owner to ensure 100% of the profits are given to the Society’s treasury. Members were encouraged to order items for themselves and family members to help boost our Society’s funds.

Account Balances – The Treasurer report was made available for the audience to view. Checking account balance as of 5/6/2016 was $2748.98. Income: $2177.00; Expenses: $2,710.28 with an ending checking account balance as of 5/6/2017 is $2,140.70. Savings balance 5/6/2016 was $855.00, balance as of 5/6/2017 $930.00.

**Historian’s Report** – Susan L. Bueckers

5 Supplemental memberships approved and certificates mailed or hand delivered; no approved applications have been returned yet. Three Junior Members will be inducted into our Society this afternoon. One member has transferred to the North Dakota Mayflower Society and one member was reinstated.

One membership application is waiting for approval from Plymouth for Autumn Mayberry.

**Elder Report** – No report

**Counsellor Report** – No report
**Captain Report** – No report

**Surgeon Report** – Governor Elwood M. Porter, II for Erick Salveson

There were no deaths in the Society since May 7, 2016. The general health of Society members is good.

**Deputy Governor General Report** – Elwood M. Porter, II

Deputy Governor General Porter attended the GBOA in Indianapolis, Indiana in September 2016; upon his return he distributed notes to State Society Officers; he also relayed General Society information to State Society members and officers through the Cowboy Mayflower Log newsletter. DGG Porter also submitted his Conflict of Interest statement with Secretary General Roser. DGG Porter will represent the Wyoming Society at the 2017 General Congress in Plymouth, Massachusetts this September.

**Assistant General** – No report; Assistant General Mary Stoll was excused due to an accident in which she broke her foot.

A special presentation was given from John with the 1838 Rendezvous Association about the mountain men and important historical activities around the Riverton, Wyoming area.

Governor Porter introduced Governor General Lea S. Filson and Assistant Governor General George P. Garmany and presented them each with gifts made of Wyoming Jade.

**Governor General Address** – Lea S. Filson

Governor General Lea S. Filson addressed the Wyoming Mayflower Society and guests. Governor General Filson held up the gavel and remarked that it was made from wood from the Mayflower II and which she brought to be used for the day’s meeting; she calls it the Traveling Gavel. She takes pictures of the gavel with the Governor of each state society she visits, and she took pictures that morning with Governor Porter. Governor General Filson also said she brought some items with her to display for the audience to see. She had business cards as well as her medals. There are three medals: the Member Medal which proudly displays the Pilgrim Ancestor name, the State Officer Medal which displays offices in the state society which members have held, and the GSMD National Medal which displays national committees or offices which members have held. She also brought the Mayflower Journal and the Mayflower Quarterly Magazine, as well as the publication The Cry of the Stone by Robert Cushman (available at the GSMD website).

She also requested email addresses from those interested in General Mayflower monthly newsletter information being sent to their inboxes.

Governor General Lea S. Filson presented Governor Elwood M. Porter, II with a Governor General’s Certificate of Recognition for meritorious service in advancing the aims of the Society of Mayflower
Governor General Filson encouraged the Wyoming Society to plan and carry out a special celebration in 2020 of the 400th Anniversary of the crossing of the Mayflower and its arrival at Plymouth Rock, and the Wyoming Society’s 65th Anniversary of its Society charter. She stressed the importance of genealogy and DNA research in finding our ancestors. She personally descends from 8 Mayflower Pilgrims and her DNA confirms that her genes are 98% from the British Isles. She reminded us of the reasons the Mayflower Pilgrims set sail for America, several details of the crossing of the ocean, conditions after the Pilgrims’ arrival, and the signing of the Mayflower Compact that would create a Pilgrim experiment that would endure to influence the founding of our nation.

The Society of Mayflower Descendants and the New England Historic and Genealogical Society (NEHGS) have entered into a partnership to digitize and index Generation Five of each of the Mayflower Society Silver Books. The information will be available on the GSMD website and the on www.AmericanAncestors.org. The first 50 years of the Mayflower Quarterly will also be digitized and indexed and made available. The work should be completed within the next 12-24 months.

With increased popularity of genealogy shows and resources the Mayflower Society is attracting many younger members. Some are junior members brought into the Society, but around 35% of our new members from a year ago are age 32 and under, and many under are joining on their own. Therefore the GSMD has started using Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube to join the computer age in telling the Pilgrim story and to try to attract new members.

The Mayflower Journal and Mayflower Quarterly are available to members for free online at the GSMD website www.themayflowersociety.org; the Mayflower Journal is available to members for a small shipping cost and is printed twice each year. The GSMD website has over 10,000 users who access it regularly. Many significant items of interest are featured on the site, including information about lobbying for the Commemorative 2020 Coin Bill, the upcoming 2020 activities and other events happening at our campus in Plymouth. There are items for sale on the website and for sale in Plymouth that help us to fund our growth and to remain relevant.

Exciting developments happening now at the General Mayflower Society level: an official GSMD DNA policy has been establishing to make sure that the lineage department remains the gold standard of genealogy research. Europe now has its own Mayflower Society, and Australia is making steps to establish one as well. The General Mayflower Society campus has many beautiful and unique buildings and a garden available for visiting members and guests. The General Mayflower Society is also looking for help to lobby for a 2020 Commemorative Coin to be minted, and is looking to have monuments built both in Plymouth, MA and in Plymouth, UK to commemorate the Mayflower voyage. The Mayflower House and garden on the Mayflower campus is also being studied to decide how best to use the house to forward society goals. An event planner is available to help members plan for hosting activities and events at the Mayflower house, for example: meetings, family reunions, weddings, etc.
Topics to be decided during the General Congress taking place this September include: voting on some best uses for buildings and areas of the Mayflower campus in Plymouth; deciding whether to digitize our membership applications in a partnership with FamilySearch and NEHGS; launching a fund-raising initiative to restore the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse, presently owned by First Parish Church who is working on terms to donate the building to GSMD. The Church is located on the oldest street in America and stands on the site where the Pilgrims built their first meetinghouse in 1622, making it oldest site of continuous ministry in North America. An endowment needs to be funded to ensure the Church is always taken care of. The building has been distinguished by the Department of the Interior and other organizations as a unique historical site.

Commemorative 2020 activities will be discussed and planned in detail at the General Congress in September, but a brief explanation was given as follows: Congress in 2020 will be extended to 10 days and will include the General Officers dressed in period clothing being honored in Boston by Massachusetts state and federal officials at the Massachusetts statehouse. William Bradford’s text of Plymouth Plantation will be brought out and displayed just for Mayflower guests. A ferry ride to Provincetown will bring guests to a memorial service in honor of the Mayflower Pilgrims and we will drop a wreath offshore where the compact was signed. Provincetown officials will be holding a ceremony honoring us at the Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum. In Plymouth, 2020 Congress attendees will welcome new citizens at a naturalization ceremony dressed in Pilgrim clothing. If the endowment for the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse has been raised, a dedication ceremony witnessing the passing of the deed of the building to GSMD will also take place. A monument commissioned to commemorate the 2020 Anniversary will also be unveiled.

Governor General Filson encouraged all members to donate as generously as they are able in order to honor our Pilgrim ancestor(s) and to help the GSMD continue its work of memorializing the Pilgrims and their accomplishments. Individual members, or the Wyoming Society, can join the Governor General’s 1620 Club (by donating at least $1620) which has historically gone to fund more Silver Books, historian software, etc. Members who donate or bequeath funds at the time of their passing leave a legacy between the GSMD and their family name and ensure that the Society will prosper for years to come.

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Wyoming, as well as the other sister societies, has the opportunity to find its own way(s) to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the crossing of the Mayflower in 2020 by telling the story of the Pilgrims and their significant contributions and influence on our great country.

**Assistant Governor General Address – George P. Garmany**

Assistant Governor General George P. Garmany (who is running for Governor General) has been working with the Executive Committee to help carry out plans directed by the Governor General, etc. In preparation for the 2020 celebrations, the Sarcophagus Monument was refurbished during the last year. We are working on getting a US Postage stamp (more information is available on the GSMD website) and a Commemorative Coin to honor this 400th Anniversary. The US Congress has to approve any coins
being minted. The process is quite extensive and will require the efforts of everyone to be able to be successful at getting the coin produced and made available.

GSMD is working on monuments being built in Plymouth, UK and Plymouth, Massachusetts to commemorate 2020; voting will take place in the future about the design of such monuments. More information will be coming out in the Mayflower Quarterly and on the GSMD website.

Last year Plymouth accepted 1700 new members but we lost 1300 members in the same time period. It’s worth asking ourselves, so that we can share with others, “What does the Mayflower Society do?” As stated in our mission statement, we bring people together to educate ourselves and those around us about the Pilgrim experiment and their great accomplishments. In Wyoming we have a unique understanding of the Pilgrim experience because we are surrounded by physical reminders of one of the greatest pilgrimages in history. The Mormon pioneers who approached Independence Rock and made it through South Pass expressed gratitude for that accomplishment. This history so close to us provide us with the opportunity to correlate the story of the Pilgrims’ crossing to the pioneer crossings that Wyoming residents are more familiar with. When we capture that same attitude about the Pilgrim story in sharing it with others, we will be successful at attracting and retaining new members who are proud of their Pilgrim heritage. The purpose of the General Society is to provide us with resources to help share and preserve the Pilgrim memory in our respective state societies. Assistant Governor General Garmany challenged the Wyoming Society to find a tangible way of commemorating the 400th Anniversary to share with fellow residents. We need to decide what form that expression will take.

Unfinished Business - There was no unfinished business.

Governor Porter expressed a Happy Mother’s Day the following week to all the mothers in attendance.

New Business –

Governor Porter discussed the features of the new Wyoming Mayflower Society website, namely that 2018 dues could be paid online beginning October 1, 2017. News and updates in our society and in Plymouth are also displayed on the site.

Historian Sue Bueckers presented three very excited Junior Members with their Wyoming Mayflower Society Junior Membership certificates: Henry Mayberry, Miles Mayberry, and Ruby Mayberry, all of whom are descendants of George Soule.

Junior Membership Chair, Amber Orton, presented the winners of the spring Junior Member coloring contest with their prizes.

Governor Porter announced that in addition to the Deputy Governor General and Assistant General positions held by Elwood Porter and Mary Stoll, respectively, Wyoming has 3 delegate slots available for members interested in participating in the 2017 General Congress in Plymouth this September. Delegates would vote on the issues to be decided at the Congress and pay their own travel expenses. Governor Porter asked if there were any members interested in going to Plymouth as Wyoming Society delegates. Autumn Mayberry (Wyoming membership pending) was nominated by Amber Orton as a
delegate pending her approval by Plymouth. It was seconded by Sue Bueckers. Pending her membership approval, Autumn Mayberry is an elected delegate to the 2017 General Congress. No other nominations were given; Governor Porter instructed any members interested in attending the General Congress to contact Secretary Hursman and himself if they were interested in representing our society in September.

Treasurer Amber Orton explained that the printed logos displayed in the meeting room were going to be made available as printed products, namely apparel, mugs, stickers, art work, blankets, personal and office accessories, etc. We have entered into an arrangement with a seller who has agreed to give 100% of the profits to the Wyoming Mayflower Society. Members were encouraged to visit the website to see the featured products and to help us raise funds by purchasing items for themselves or as gifts for others that help instill pride in our Pilgrim heritage and will in turn help increase our treasury funds.

**Adjournment**

Governor Porter closed the meeting by reminding those in attendance to visit the new Wyoming Mayflower Society website and announced the 2018 meeting would be held in Cheyenne next May. The venue location would be announced at a later date.

Those in attendance sang “America The Beautiful”.

The benediction was offered by Amber Orton.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 pm.