

SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS IN THE STATE OF TEXAS
MINUTES OF THE BOA MEETING
7:00 p.m., June 23, 2020
Zoom Meeting
BOA and General Society in Attendance

A quorum being present, State Society Governor, Judie Allen called the meeting to order.

Elizabeth Heise led members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Elder Bart Henson led members in prayer.

Governor Allen welcomed members to Zoom.

Governor Allen announced Pat Nichols as the Parliamentarian.

Governor Allen provided an Agenda and Standing Rules for this meeting and both were approved.

Governor Allen stated that minutes of the 2019 meeting were read and approved.

Governor Allen appointed Elizabeth Heise as time keeper. Danielle Estes, John McWilliams, IV and Kimberly Florsheim were tellers for this meeting. Kimberly Florsheim also acted as credentials person and teller liaison to ensure we had a quorum. The appointments were approved.

Sandra Sauers, Nancy Powers and Marsha Jernigan were appointed by Governor Allen to read and approve the minutes of this year's Annual Meeting. The readers were approved.

Governor Allen announced five actions that were approved by an e-mail vote and BOA members were asked to vote on the ratification of those actions. Recording Secretary Peggy Marsh read the ratifications.

April 19, 2019 Governor Allen presented the request by the 2020 Committee to fund the Tyler Rose Parade in October for the \$250.00. (Prior to Ad Hoc 2020 Funding Committee formation). This motion passed.

July 26, 2019 DGG Michael Nichols was recuperating from back surgery and Governor Allen requested the appointment of Linda Hill as acting DGG for the Colorado GBOA meeting. This appointment passed.

February 18, 2020 Governor Allen presented the recommendation by the Ad Hoc TXSOMD 2020 Funding Committee for the following 2020 proposals:

- Bus Tour provided for members attending the 2020 Annual TXSOMD meeting in San Antonio - \$450 and possible additional bus at \$450

- Buckhorn & Texas Ranger Museum admission for members - \$843.60
- Donation to Plimoth Plantation for the Ship Mayflower II - \$4,000.00 – this recommendation was approved.

March 13, 2020 Governor Allen proposed the cancellation of the 2020 Annual meeting for the safety of our members and asked the BOA for their approval. This proposal was approved.

May 19, 2020 Governor Allen presented a letter outlining the rationale for holding a Zoom Meeting to address business that needed attention following the GSMD Meeting. Governor Allen asked that this letter be entered into the minutes so a transparent record may be kept. The letter appears at the end of the minutes. This also includes the caucus meeting with delegates held by DGG, Michael Nichols as mentioned in the letter.

The letter by DGG Michael Nichols may be read in the last pages of these minutes. The ratifications were approved.

Governor Allen called upon DGG Michael Nichols to clarify the GSMD changes. This report may be read at the end of the minutes.

Governor Allen called for nominations from the floor for DGG and AG to represent the Texas Society for the next three years.

Current Deputy Governor General, Michael Nichols nominated Judie Allen as the next Texas Society DGG. Lisa Pennington asked to second the nomination. Hearing no other nominations from the floor, Judie Allen was approved as DGG nominee.

Governor Allen asked for nominations for Assistant General and Mike Nichols nominated Prairie Counce as AG for the next three years. A second was made by Bart Henson. Prairie Counce accepted the nomination. Hearing no other nominations from the floor, Governor Allen called for a vote. Prairie Counce was approved as nominee for AG.

Governor Allen recognized Nominating Committee Chair, Jacqie Perabo, who reported an email was sent on June 10 to determine the Nominating Committee Chairs from each Colony.

Governor Allen reported for Awards Chair, Laine Miller. Since there was no 2020 State Meeting, the 2020 Distinguished Service Award recipient will be awarded at the 2021 State Meeting along with the 2021 Distinguished Service Award recipient.

Finance Committee Chair, Linda Hill presented the report of the Finance Committee. Treasurer Hill presented the following recommendations and made the motion that these recommendations be approved. The recommendations were posted on the screen.

The Finance Committee recommends that:

- Total Scholarships for 2020 should remain at the temporary approved amount of \$8,640, with the first-place winner receiving \$5,000, second-place winner receiving \$2020, and a third-place winner receiving \$1,620. Any change in the number or amount of Scholarships should be decided previous to the year in which they are awarded. This would provide guidance to the Scholarship Committee and allow the proposed budget to accurately reflect the amount of the Award. As the amount of the 2020 Scholarship award was temporary, a re-evaluation of the 2021 award should be completed and voted on before June 30th 2020.
- The Finance committee agrees with the Audit Committee in that The Governor should appoint an acting Assistant Treasurer. This Assistant Treasurer should 1) monthly review the bank and credit card account reconciliations prepared by the Treasurer, 2) handle solicitation of annual dues and 3) quarterly review the account postings in QuickBooks. This meets the General Society recommendation of account reconciliation review by a second person. Further, we should Nominate and elect an Assistant Treasurer when we next elect officers and change our bylaws to include this new officer position.
- Ex-Governor, Mike Nichols should continue to support the Treasurer and the Texas Society as a "Technical Coordinator". This allows him to act in an official capacity to have access to all records and satisfy our insurance company under our Officers Insurance Policy and continue to provide support to the treasurer in the more technical aspects of QuickBooks and Excel.
- In order to insure the continuity of our current Integrated Membership system, the society should aggressively seek a member with the requisite programing skills to take over its administration.

These recommendations by the Finance Committee were approved.

Audit Committee Chair, Bart Henson reported the recommendations for the Audit Committee. The recommendations of the Audit Committee were posted on the screen.

1. Due to the extent of records and cross checks needed to complete an annual review of Texas Mayflower Society financial records, I recommend that **The Chair of the Audit Committee should meet separately with the Treasurer for a half day in advance of the meeting held by the Finance Committee and Endowment Committee.**
2. **Change the name of the Audit Committee to Financial Review Committee** to more accurately reflect the nature of the work performed and to avoid any representation that the committee is performing a formal, independent CPA led review.
3. **Engage an independent CPA to do a financial process, records and procedures review at least every 3 years beginning in 2020. Budget \$5,000 in 2020 to accomplish this first professional review.** While we do not need a formal, documented, independent CPA review costing at least \$15,000, a periodic review of how we maintain our records and what financial procedures we follow would achieve needed guidance as well as protection for the society and the Treasurer. This would recognize that with an annual budget of \$70-90k

and assets worth over a half million dollars, we need to seek professional advice to support the dedicated volunteers that maintain our records.

4. The Treasurer job remains demanding and I recommend that **The Governor should appoint an acting Assistant Treasurer.** This Assistant Treasurer should 1) monthly review the bank and credit card account reconciliations prepared by the Treasurer, 2) handle solicitation of annual dues and 3) quarterly review the account postings in QuickBooks. This meets the General Society recommendation of account reconciliation review by a second person. Further, we should **Nominate and elect an Assistant Treasurer when we next elect officers and change our bylaws to include this new officer position.**
5. **Expense invoices from printing the newsletter or other significant expenditures should be approved by the Texas Mayflower individual arranging for such service before being paid by the Treasurer.** This would ensure that we receive what we had arranged in the eyes of the person(s) most familiar with the activity. Preferably the invoices would go directly to the person overseeing the work who would approve the invoices before forwarding them to the Governor or Treasurer for payment.
6. **For any changes in our investments, the Endowment Committee should provide written instruction to the Treasurer prior to execution.** This would ensure that the Treasurer is acting with the full approval of the Endowment Committee. The “instructions” could come in the form of an Endowment Committee report or a written communication (including e-mail) from the Endowment Chair to the Treasurer.
7. **Appoint a second PayPal account representative with access to the account .** Having at least two people with account access including the Treasurer would help insure continuity in case of incapacity of the representative.
8. The Audit committee fully supports the Finance Committee recommendation to create a new position to be in charge of maintaining and making needed programing changes in our membership system needed from time to time. While our current membership system is an excellent online multi-user program designed just for the Texas Mayflower society and provides a common membership record consistent with the needs of both the Corresponding Secretary and the Treasurer, it is a stand-alone program which needs periodic updating.

Audit Committee Chair, Bart Henson moved that these recommendations be approved. A vote was called for and the recommendations of the Audit Committee were approved.

Endowment Committee Chair, Mike Nichols reported for the Endowment Committee and made the motion that the recommendations be approved. These recommendations were posted on the screen.

Endowment Committee Recommendations

1. Continue to allocate no more than 4% of our Mayflower Fund to pay for our Education, Library, and Scholarship Charitable activities. For the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year this amounts to \$17,055.20.
2. Although the Life Membership Fund is healthy as of 2/29/2020, any increase in the GSMD per capita rate puts it in a continuing loss. Recommend:
 - a. Form an ad hoc committee to look at the Life Member fee structure and report back to the Board of Assistants. Acting on the committee report may require changes to our Bylaws and Standing Rules.
 - b. Move the 2019-2020 operating surplus of \$13,484.50 to the Life Membership account.
3. Mayflower Fund – Invest \$6,500 of the Money Market funds to the Mayflower Dividend Appreciation fund.
4. Life Member Fund – Invest \$17,000 of the Money Market funds to the Life Dividend Appreciation fund.

The Committee report may require changes to our bylaws and standing rules, such as considering the minimum age for Life Membership or the number of annual dues multipliers that are used in calculating that amount. This will be discussed later in this meeting.

From an eight-year balance sheet, the overall investments in Vanguard are within \$2000, as they were at the end of 2020. During the fiscal year 2019-2020, we have almost caught up with everything that was lost, coming within \$2,000 of our all-time high. At the end of June, we will be fully recovered.

Governor Allen asked for discussion and approval of the recommendations of the Endowment Committee. The recommendations were approved.

By-Laws Chair, Lisa Pennington explained that the Bylaws changes were procedural and not substantive and that most changes are recommendations of the Finance Committee and Historians.

As the Bylaws were presented, there was much discussion regarding the wording. Governor Allen recognized Peggy Jared who suggested that the nomenclature from the preliminary application does not require an amendment, adding that if the parent organization changes something that applies or affects all colonies, it does not require a vote and the colonies will follow the changes.

Peggy Jared moved that action on the housekeeping items be delayed until the Bylaws Committee can address the wording of said amendments. These should be re-submitted to the membership. A second was made by Kimberly Florsheim. This motion was approved.

Governor Allen requested the Bylaw changes be revised and presented to the BOA for approval before they are published in the Winter newsletter.

Governor Allen proceeded to Amendment Number 5, Article III Sec.2B3: to delete our Life Junior Membership Program. After discussion, the Bylaw Amendment was approved.

Governor Allen explained that we were only addressing the issues that would result in a financial insecurity if GSMD raises dues and application fees. We would not vote on proposed Amendments 9, 11, 13 and 15, but not address them until the 2021 Annual Meeting. Governor Allen then proceeded to Article 14, Sec 3 and Sec.4, which proposed striking the term, Junior Life Membership. These were presented and the Bylaw change was approved.

Governor Allen announced the appointment of Jean de Schweinitz as Assistant Treasurer, fulfilling the recommendation from the Finance groups. This recommendation will be adding the position of Assistant Treasurer as an elected officer and the duties of that office to the Bylaws, which will be voted on at the next State Meeting.

Governor Allen recognized Prarie Counce, Chair of the Ad Hoc 400 Commemoration Committee who announced the approval of three new commemorative projects.

(1) DFW Colony is dedicating a tree at the Dallas Arboretum at a cost of \$3,000.

(2) Houston Colony is dedicating a tree with commemorative plaque at

Washington-on-the-Brazos. Estimated cost of \$3,500.

(3) Texas Juniors 2020 Committee will be giving 2020 prizes totaling \$250. The total of \$6,750 has been approved for these projects.

There have been pre-approved expenses for the San Antonio meeting, but not funded through the Treasurer, which would be the expenses for Captain Perry and his wife, the bus tours and the Texas Ranger Museum, for a total of \$19,549.

Additional paid expenses included the Texas Rose Festival Parade and the donation to Plymouth Plantation for the ship.

Prarie Counce also announced a proposal from Central Texas for books and educational materials and proposed national radio spots.

The Ad Hoc 400 Commemoration Committee Chair also announced \$5,000 in remaining funds and encouraged those with good ideas to submit them to the committee for consideration. Some funding was made by the 2020 allocation funds from tee shirt sales.

Governor Allen recommended that the commemoration funds carry over into 2021. The motion was made by the Committee to fund. The BOA voted and the recommendation was approved.

Governor Allen described members' interest in another *Gone to Texas* book.

Treasurer, Linda Hill presented the 2021 budget. Governor Allen asked for discussion. Treasurer Hill then made the motion to approve the budget. The BOA approved the 2021 budget.

Governor Allen recognized Michael Byrne who welcomed members to the 2021 Annual Meeting in San Antonio on March 26-29, 2021.

Governor Allen asked for other business.

Elder Bart Henson closed the meeting with prayer.

Governor Allen adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Agenda for the TXSOMD Zoom Meeting

Call to Order – Governor Allen

Pledge of Allegiance – Elizabeth Heise

Invocation – Elder Bart Henson

Welcome from the Governor

Introductions

Recognition of Parliamentarian

Adoption of Agenda and Standing Rules

Appointment of Timekeeper, Tellers and 2020 Readers

Ratification of BOA email votes (Only BOA will vote)

Nominations from the floor for DGG and AG

Committee Reports and Recommendations

- Awards Committee – Laine Miller, Chair (Report given by Governor Allen)
- Nominating Committee – Jacqie Perabo, Chair (Given by Governor Allen)
- Finance Committee – Linda Hill, Treasurer
- Audit Committee – Bart Henson, Chair
- Endowment Committee – Michael Nichols, Chair
- Bylaws – Chair, Lisa Pennington

New Business

Presentation of 2021 Budget – Linda Hill, Treasurer (adoption will be made by the BOA only)

Welcome to the 2021 Annual Meeting – Michael Byrne, San Antonio Colony

Adjourn – Governor Allen

Standing Rules

1. Participants are required to join the meeting on individual devices (one person, one device). Participants are encouraged to join the meeting on a desktop or laptop computer, tablet, or smart phone. The following are requirements for such computers: high speed internet access, sound output device, microphone device, and webcam.
2. Each attendee is responsible for his or her connection to the internet and the meeting room; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection that prevented him or her from participating in the meeting. Any participant who does not use a video connection acknowledges that the audio connection may not allow him or her to vote.
3. Upon entering the meeting, participants will click on the word "participants" at the bottom of their screen to see a list of participants. Each participant must use their own full name during the meeting. If a participant's name is displayed as a device or another user's name, they must click on the "rename" tab and enter their full name.
4. Once recognized by the host, participants will click on the word "mute" on the main screen and raise their hands to seek recognition. When called upon by a meeting host, they will unmute their microphones.
5. A liaison teller will be assigned to communicate the number of BOA members, TXSOMD members to ensure a quorum is present.
6. The raise hand feature will be used both for seeking recognition and voting. Please only raise your hand for these purposes. The hosts are responsible for lowering hands. Please *do not* lower your own hand.
7. When multiple participants are seeking recognition, once the Chair has called on someone, all other hands raised will be lowered. If you have an "interrupting motion" (a point of order, a request for preference in recognition, etc.), raise your hand again after it has been lowered by the host. If you are not immediately recognized, you may unmute your microphone and say, "Mr./Madam Chair".
8. If you have a motion to make, other than a procedural motion, it should be entered in writing in the participant "chat" after which you should seek recognition. When called upon you should state your name. Colony affiliation or Society title. State that your motion is in the chat and move it. The host will display this motion on the screen for all to see. The maximum debate for each question shall be ten (10) minutes.
9. A vote will be taken by means of the raise hand feature. Each vote will be presented as "for and opposed". Hands will be lowered by the host once the tellers have tallied the raised hands. The tellers will announce the total votes and the Governor will state the majority vote.
10. When the Chair seeks unanimous consent on a matter, the "No" icon shall constitute an objection to unanimous consent, and voting shall then proceed using the "raise hand" function.

A vote was taken. The Agenda was adopted and the Standing Rules were accepted.

Governor Allen Letter Rationale for holding a Zoom Meeting

May 19, 2020

This is a rather lengthy letter, so I have divided it into three sections: GSMD Meeting News, TXSOMD Meeting News, and Other information.

As you may have heard, GSMD will hold a 2020 virtual Congress Meeting on June 20, 2020. This decision was made possible by a recent Massachusetts's edict allowing organizations to hold their regular board meeting and conduct business electronically during the COVID-19 crisis. The business addressed at this meeting will be, voting on the five proposed amendments to the GSMD Bylaws, election of Officers for the 2020-2023 term and nomination from the floor and voting for the three Member at Large positions.

This allows the Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants to follow the procedures and practices of the "parent organization". Therefore, after the GSMD meeting, the Texas Society will hold a 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting to conduct our business and address the proposed bylaw changes that directly impact our financial issues that result from the actions taken at the GSMD Annual Meeting.

At this meeting, we will conduct the usual business, ratifying the actions taken by the BOA, presenting the Financial Committee reports and recommendations. We will only vote on the proposed amendments to bylaws that affect our financial security. The other proposed bylaw changes will be held for the 2021 Annual Meeting which will be held in San Antonio on March 25-28, 2021. Save the date!

Part One

GSMD held a Virtual Treasurer's Forum on May 9, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. EDT for Society Treasurers. The purpose of this forum was to discuss the rationale for the five proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments and answer questions. Attending from Texas were Linda Hill, Treasurer; Mike Nichols, member of the GSMD Finance Committee; Lisa Pennington, Member-at- Large and Judie Allen, Governor. This meeting was recorded on Zoom and may be viewed at

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-dZslo7yqWVLXqvD5k_yR74wBoHbeaa813MW-PZbziMhfNCKXMnAOThtMQuBryg Password: 5V#+fc0c

Governor General Garmany held a forum on May 16, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. EDT. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the five proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and explain some of the procedures for the upcoming 2020 Annual Meeting. Attending from Texas were Lisa Pennington, Member-At- Large, Mike Nichols, DGG, Prarie Counce, AG and Judie Allen, Governor. This meeting was recorded on Zoom and may be viewed at

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/38okL7rqrkZJYa_J507zRJY8TsPiT6a82yNLrqYKnUhgEkbYgXvlpOn14XRfXWD7?startTime=1589659583000

On June 6, 2020 a “trial” Zoom meeting will be held by GSMD so all can practice the rules and procedures for the actual GSMD Meeting which will be held June 20, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. EDT. I have attached a copy of the procedures, report from the Nominating Committee and Proposed Bylaws.



! 2020 GBOA
Announcement FIN/



2020 GSMD
Proposed Bylaw Am



2020 GSMD
Nominating Commit

Part Two

After the GSMD June 20th meeting, our Finance Committee will have a meeting to discuss the impact and make recommendations as to how those decisions will affect the Texas Society.

Following the Finance Committee Meeting, TXSOMD will hold an Online 2020 Annual Meeting addressing those matters discussed previously. We will only vote on the Proposed Bylaws that have been presented and need immediate attention. This may sound confusing, but the proposed bylaws presented were based on the possible GSMD vote to increase dues and the impact that action might have on our Life Membership Program. This is not an ideal situation but due to the pandemic it is the most reasonable and responsible way to maintain TXSOMD's financial security.

The Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants 2020 Annual Meeting date and time will be announced soon but probably will occur on June 22 or 23 after the finance committee has had a chance to review decisions made at the GSMD Annual Meeting. Our meeting will be held using Zoom and procedures for this meeting will be set by the rules of Zoom and the procedures followed by GSMD, our “parent organization”. You will need to have a camera enabled device to attend. A meeting invite will be sent to you. If you are a Colony Governor, it is your duty to share this information with your colony. I have included the directions sent from GSMD for their meeting on How to Use Zoom. This is the same procedure we will use.



How to Zoom for
GSMD v3.pdf

Part Three

1. You will be receiving the 2020 Officer, Committee and Colony reports from Peggy Marsh, Secretary, soon.
2. Our recipient for the Distinguished Service 2020 will be held for the 2021 Annual Meeting. I wanted the winner to enjoy a full year of recognition rather than award it virtually.
3. Bart Henson is a nominee for Member-At-Large. Because there is not an opportunity this year for us to campaign or for other States to meet Bart, we want them to know who he is and what a perfect person he is for this position. Mike

Nichols, as DGG will make the nomination. A letter detailing Bart's history, his service to the Mayflower Society and experience is below. If you know anyone in the Mayflower Society in another State, please send them this letter and ask them to send it to their State's DGG.



20200513BartLetter.
docx

4. If you were attending the Annual Meeting in Plymouth and were a delegate to the 2020 GSMD Meeting, DGG, Mike Nichols will hold an online caucus to discuss how Texas wants to vote. If you were a delegate but have not received notification of this meeting, please contact Mike Nichols. Based upon our membership as of December 2019 we have the maximum number of five votes.
5. If you have questions or concerns about either meeting, please contact Mike Nichols or me.
6. I would like for this letter to be included into the 2020 Minutes and ratified at the 2020 Annual Meeting. The purpose of this is to record how and why we are conducting business in the manner. Please vote by sending Peggy Marsh and me your vote.

I hope it goes without saying, but I miss you all!

Judie Allen

Governor, Texas Society of Mayflower Descendants

VOTE: Do you approve this letter be entered as part of the 2020 Online Meeting Minutes?

Letter of Deputy Governor General Michael Nichols

This memo documents the process and voting decisions reached by the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Texas for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants 'Special GBOA' meeting.

Background

The GSMD Executive Committee looked at the risk associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and decided that cancelling the 2020 Mayflower Society Congress was in the best interests of the health of our membership. The Governor of the State of Massachusetts declared a state of emergency which allows us to conduct the business of our society with a special online meeting during the duration of the emergency plus 60 days. This special meeting will be limited to voting on the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and to elect Officers for the 2020-2023 term.

Texas 'Delegation' Meeting

On Friday, May 22, a digital conference was held with the TXSOMD members who had previously notified Governor Judie Allen they were planning on being members of the Texas delegation at the Mayflower Society Congress this September in Plymouth.

The attendees were Mike Nichols (DGG), Judie Allen (Governor), Prarie Counce (Deputy Governor and AG), Bart Henson (Elder), Lisa Pennington (GSMD Member at Large), Peggy Marsh (Recording Secretary), Nancy Powers, Sheryl Schilling, Sandra Sauers, and Linda Hill (Treasurer)

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the items to be voted on at the upcoming special GSMD General Board of Assistance meeting and decide the recommended votes to be cast by Texas.

After carefully examining the five proposed amendments, the attendees unanimously agreed that Texas should vote Yes on all five.

Following a review and discussion of the proposed slate of GSMD officers nominated by the Nominating Committee, the attendees unanimously agreed to vote for all of the proposed nominees with one exception: should Jane Hurt be nominated from the floor for the office of Governor General Texas should vote for her.

The attendees also unanimously agreed to nominate and vote for Bart Henson as a Member at Large of the GSMD Executive Committee.

Texas has been limited to having four members authorized to join the virtual meeting. They are Mike Nichols (DGG), Judie Allen (Governor), Prarie Counce (AG), and Bart Henson. Lisa Pennington will also attend as she is currently one of the GSMD Members at Large.

Mike Nichols
DGG for Texas

Report of the Deputy Governor General
The Strange Saga of the 42nd General Congress

As you are aware, the 42nd General Congress was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Governor of the state of Massachusetts declared a state of emergency, which allowed Massachusetts corporations additional ways to conduct their normal business, including digital meetings using Zoom and similar tools.

The GSMD Executive Committee interpreted that to mean they could go ahead with the election of officers and dealing with bylaws amendments without a General Congress. Governor General Garmany proceeded to call a Special GBOA meeting for June 20 to conduct these business items over Zoom.

A special Zoom meeting was held with the member society Treasurers on May 9 and another with the member society Governors on May 16 to inform them why the proposed dues increase and membership application fee increases were needed.

Thanks to Member at Large Lisa Pennington, an outside attorney was engaged who determined that digital meetings were covered under the state of emergency, but that did not allow the Executive Committee or the GBOA to perform the actions reserved to the General Congress. This was about June 6.

During all this chaos, Dick Gilmore, the nominee for Governor General, resigned his nomination, and the Nominations Committee nominated Jane Hurt, the current Secretary General, to be the next Governor General.

The next step was an attempt to change the Special GBOA meeting into a Special General Congress so it could deal with the elections and bylaws amendments. Setting the date for a Special Congress requires a 90-day notice unless all of the member societies approve waiving the 90-day requirement in the GSMD bylaws.

Waiver forms were sent to all 54 member societies on June 12, with return deadline of June 18. 51 societies agreed and sent in their waiver forms. As the attempted change was not approved, a Special GBOA meeting was held over Zoom on June 20 to approve holding a Special General Congress on September 26 to conduct elections and vote on the bylaws amendments. This motion was unanimously approved. If the Massachusetts state of emergency is still in effect, or it is no later than 60 days past its expiry, the Congress will be held over Zoom. Otherwise it will need to be held in Plymouth, as the GSMD bylaws do not have any provision to hold a digital meeting.

Michael Nichols, DGG