

PISCATAQUA PIONEERS BYLAWS
Amended July 27, 2024

This is an educational, genealogical, historical and patriotic society, whose membership consists of the descendants of the original settlers on each side of the Piscataqua River and its tributaries, prior to the Declaration of Independence.

ARTICLE I. Name

The name of the society shall be PISCATAQUA PIONEERS (Inc. 1905).

ARTICLE II. Object

The purpose of this society is to secure and preserve the records of the pioneers of the Piscataqua River Valley between Maine and New Hampshire and of their descendants. The historical sites in this area are visited regularly to ensure that generations to come will be aware of the accomplishments of the early settlers and their contributions to the advancement of America.

ARTICLE III. Membership and Fees

Section 1. The membership shall consist of Annual Members, Life Members, and Associate Members.

Section 2. Members may be elected at the Annual Meeting or at any meeting of the Council by a majority vote of those present.

Section 3. Applicants for membership shall be referred to the Registrar. The Registrar shall establish proof of lineage claimed on forms furnished by the applicant. When lineage is confirmed, one copy shall be placed in his/her file and one in the Lamson collection at UNH.

Section 4. The husband or wife of an Annual or Life Member may be proposed for Associate Membership, and when elected shall have the right to vote and to hold office.

Section 5. Each applicant shall pay a fee of thirty dollars to the organization at the time of application. Each Annual Member or Associate Member shall pay annual dues of twenty dollars due on June 30th for the coming year. The life membership fee shall be ten times the annual membership fee.

If lineage forms are not filed with the Registrar within one year from the date of issue, they will be void and require resubmission with a new submission fee.

Section 6. Any Annual or Associate Member who fails to pay annual dues for three years will forfeit membership.

ARTICLE IV. **Officers**

Section 1. Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, three (minimum) to five Vice Presidents, Chaplain, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar, Curator, Auditor, Database Manager, and three to five Officers-at-Large all of whom shall be elected at the Annual Meeting.

In order to provide for the stability of the Council, the change to the length of the terms for these offices will be staggered over the next two elections. To facilitate this change, the following FY24 positions will be voted in as one-year terms: 2 Vice-Presidents, Chaplain, Curator, and 3 Officers-at-Large. The remaining offices which include the President, 3 Vice Presidents, Secretary, Auditor, and 2 Officers-at-Large will be voted in for two-year terms across FY24 and FY25. After that, all terms will be elected for two-year terms as the positions come up for election.

Section 2. Assistants to any of these officers may be appointed by the Council at their discretion.

Section 3. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Council. He/she shall appoint all Committees and be ex-officio a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Section 4. The Secretary shall keep a true record of the proceedings of the meetings of the Society and of the Council.

Section 5. The Chaplain shall perform the invocation, swearing in of new officers, and benediction at all meetings of the Council and at all Annual Meetings. The Chaplain shall provide necrology reports at Council and Annual Meetings.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall bill for dues and receive all moneys, including admission fees and annual dues, pay bills as approved by the President, and render a detailed report at the Annual Meeting.

Section 7. The Curator shall forward all records, manuscripts, books and memorabilia pertaining to the history of the Piscataqua Region, as well as the original lineage papers of the members to the Lamson Collection at UNH.

Section 8. The Auditor shall examine the records of the Treasurer and certify to their accuracy at the Annual Meeting.

Section 9. The Registrar shall perform all duties pertaining to his/her office as recommended by the Council. He/she shall send, receive and retain Preliminary Application blanks, send the worksheets and lineage forms, together with a set of instructions to applicants, and receive the completed forms for consideration.

The Registrar shall recommend the names of all applicants who meet the criteria to become a member at the next Council or Annual Meeting for acceptance into the organization.

The names of all approved applicants shall be referred to the Council for election, or to the members at the Annual Meeting. Upon election the Registrar will retain one copy of the lineage papers for his/her files and deliver the other copy to the Curator for storage in the Lamson Collection at UNH and she/he shall send a copy of the Bylaws and a membership card to each person elected to membership. The Registrar will provide the Database Manager with the newly elected members' names, addresses, dates of admission, assigned numbers and names of their ancestors.

Section 10. The Database Manager shall record the names of all members with the date of their admission, their number, and the name of their ancestor. He/she shall compile and maintain a computerized list of all members with current addresses and status (active, inactive, deceased) provided by the Registrar. The Database Manager shall provide this information for the newsletters, labels, and needs of other officers. He/she shall inform all members of the date of annual and special meetings and send a fourteen day notice thereof.

Section 11. Officers-at-Large shall be three to five members who will serve at the direction of the President, providing backup for the other existing officers and doing tasks that need to be accomplished.

Section 12. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members, the immediate Past President, a member of the present Council, and one member-at-large not presently on the council. The immediate Past President shall present the members of the committee at the fall meeting of the council for approval. The Nominating Committee shall report its nominations at the spring Council meeting.

ARTICLE V. Meetings

Section 1. Annual Meetings shall be held between June 1 and September 30 on a Saturday at a time and place determined by the Council, which shall be designated in the call for a meeting. The names of the nominating committee shall be included in this notice.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Council may be called at the request of any Council member with the approval of the President.

Section 3.

The Council may hold meetings by electronic means as desired.

ARTICLE VI. The Council

Section 1. The Council shall be comprised of the immediate Past Presidents and all duly elected Officers of the Society for the current year.

Section 2. The Council shall have charge of the general affairs of the Society, may make appropriations and may fill any vacancy occurring among the officers during the year.

ARTICLE VII. **Quorum**

A quorum for meetings of the Society shall be fifteen dues paying members and a quorum of the Council shall be five members.

ARTICLE VIII. **Parliamentary Authority**

Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall be the authority for all questions of Parliamentary Law not covered by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society.

ARTICLE IX **Conflict of Interest**

Section 1. Any member in good standing of the Piscataqua Pioneers, member's relative, or member's acquaintance who will (or has) personally benefit(ed) monetarily from any action of the organization has a duty to disclose it to the Council.

Section 2. The Council shall consider any disclosed conflict of interest and rule on what action to take, if any.

Section 3. Any member of the Piscataqua Pioneers who fails to disclose a monetary conflict of interest shall be subject to removal from the Council and/or removal or suspension for a period of time from membership of the organization at the will of the Council.

ARTICLE X. **Dissolution**

In the event of dissolution, the assets of the Piscataqua Pioneers will be distributed solely for charitable, educational and religious purposes as described in Section 501 C(3) of the 1954 Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE XI. **Amendments**

Any articles in the Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any Annual Meeting, provided that they shall have been submitted to the Council and included in the notice to the members.

B.Mutrie, Secretary