

**PISCATAQUA PIONEERS BYLAWS**  
**Proposed Changes (in red) for the Annual Meeting of July 27, 2026**

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. Membership fees for Associate Members are the same as for Annual and Life memberships.

Section 5. Each applicant shall pay a fee of thirty dollars to the organization at the time of application. Collected application fees are remanded quarterly to the Registrar for services rendered in the process of ascertaining lineage of the applicant. Each Annual Member or Associate Member shall pay annual dues of twenty dollars due on June 30<sup>th</sup> 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 and need to apply for reactivation and pay the dues that they owe in arrears.

#### ARTICLE IV. **Officers of the Council**

Section 1. **Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Registrar, a Database Manager, and one Councilor-at-Large, all of whom shall be elected at an Annual Meeting. All positions on the Council will serve two-year terms except for the Registrar, Treasurer, and Database Manager who will serve three-year terms.**

Section 2. **The President shall set the agenda and preside over Council and Annual Membership Meetings as a non-voting moderator. The president may vote to break a tie.**

He/she shall appoint all Committees and be ex-officio a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep a true record of the proceedings of the meetings of the Society and of the Council.

Section 4. 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 5. 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 to membership, 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 5. 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.

Section 6. The Councilor-at-Large shall be a Council member for the purpose of its quorum and shall attend and participate in all Council and Annual Meetings.

Section 7. 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 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.

Section 3. The Council shall meet at least two times per year outside of the Annual Membership Meeting.

Section 4. The Council may appoint a Chaplain and an Auditor annually. The Council will charge the Chaplain and/or Auditor with duties as it sees fit.

Section 5. The Council may remove a Council member from their position on the Council for excessive lack of participation by a majority vote of the Council. The Council may then appoint a member in good standing to fill the vacant Council position until the next Annual Meeting.

#### **ARTICLE VII. Quorum**

Section 1. A quorum for meetings of the Society, for the purposes of the Annual Membership Meeting, shall be fifteen dues paying members. A quorum of the Council shall be four members;

3 members of the Executive Board (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer), and at least one member of the General Council (Registrar, Database Manager, Councilor-at-Large.)

#### **ARTICLE VIII. Parliamentary Authority**

Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall be the authority for all questions of Parliamentary Procedure 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**

The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members in good standing present at any Annual Meeting, provided that a copy of the proposed changes have been submitted to the membership at least fourteen days in advance of the vote.