

Containing an account of the origin of the Sons of the American Revolution, an explanation of the existence of two different organizations with similar names and objects, and a history of the movements for their union. The Constitution and By-Laws of the Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Lists of National, State and Chapter Officers. Roll of Members, with personal data and genealogies. Roll of Revolutionary Ancestors, with record of their services. Pages for an amplified family Record. And Illustrations.

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Published on the One Hundred and Twenty-third Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America, in the Year of Our Lord, 1899

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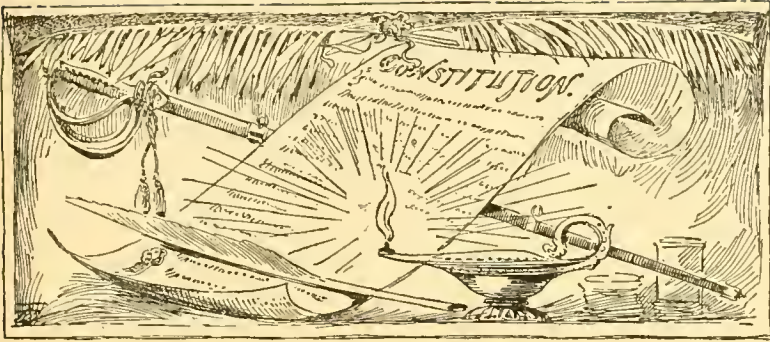
Publication Committee :

EDWARD PAYSON CONE,
RALPH EARL PRIME,
WILLIAM W. J. WARREN,
WILLIAM WATKINS KENLY.

Editor :

EDWARD HAGAMAN HALL.

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Constitution and By-laws.

PREAMBLE.

THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, a patriotic Society, whose membership has always been based upon lineal descent from participants in the American Revolution, was first organized in the State of California, in the year 1875, as the Sons of Revolutionary Sires. A National organization was formed April 30, 1889, by the union of co-equal State Societies under the name of the Sons of the American Revolution. The Society in the State of New York was organized February 11, 1890, and incorporated April 8, 1895, under the name "THE EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION." Now, therefore, pursuant to the Laws of said State, the members of said Society do hereby ordain and enact the following :

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

NAME.

This Society shall be known as "THE EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION." Its Headquarters shall be in the City of New York.

ARTICLE II.

OBJECTS.

The objects of the Society shall be to perpetuate the memory of the men who, by their services or sacrifices during the War of the American Revolution, achieved the Independence of the American People ; to promote fellowship among their descendants ; to inspire a more profound reverence for the principles of the government founded by our forefathers ; to acquire and preserve the records of the individual services or sacrifices of the patriots of that War, as well as documents, relics and landmarks ; to encourage historical research in relation to the American Revolution and

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the study of American History ; to mark the scenes of that Revolution by appropriate memorials ; to celebrate the anniversaries of the prominent events of that War ; to foster true patriotism ; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and to carry out the purposes expressed in the Preamble to the Constitution of our Country and the injunctions of Washington in his farewell address to the American People.

ARTICLE III.

NATIONAL SOCIETY.

This Society shall form a part of THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. It recognizes all other societies of the SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION as co-equal bodies and their members as compatriots, entitled to receive from this Society such information, assistance and fraternal consideration as may best promote our common objects and purposes.

ARTICLE IV.

SEAL.

The seal of the Society shall be two and three-eighths of an inch in diameter, charged with the figure of a Minute Man, grasping a musket in his right hand, and surrounded by a constellation of thirteen stars, who shall be depicted in the habit of a husbandman of the period of the American Revolution, and as in the act of deserting the plow for the service of his country; the whole encircled by a band three-eighths of an inch wide, within which shall appear the legend, "EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, Organized February 11, 1890. Incorporated April 8, 1895." [See illustration opposite this page.]

ARTICLE V.

INSIGNIA.

The Insignia of the Society shall comprise (1) a cross surmounted by an eagle in gold ; (2) a rosette.

1. The cross shall be of silver, with four arms, covered with white enamel and eight gold points, same size as Chevalier's Cross of the Legion of Honor of France, with gold medallion in the center, bearing on the obverse a bust of Washington in profile, and on the reverse the figure of a Minute Man, surrounded by a ribbon enameled blue, with the motto: "*Libertas et Patria*" on the obverse, and the legend "Sons of the American Revolution" on the reverse, both in letters of gold. The cross shall be surmounted by an eagle in gold, and the whole decoration suspended from a ring of gold by a ribbon of deep blue with white and buff edges, and may be worn by any member of the Society on ceremonial occasions only, and shall be carried on the left breast or at the collar, if an officer of the National Society, or the President, active or past of a State Society. [See illustration opposite this page.]

2. The rosette shall be seven-sixteenths of an inch in diameter, of usual pattern, displaying the colors of the Society, blue, white and buff, and may be worn by all members at discretion in the upper left-hand button-hole of the coat.

ARTICLE VI.

MEMBERSHIP.

Any man shall be eligible to membership in this Society who, being of the age of twenty-one years or over, and a desirable associate and a citizen of good repute in the



OBVERSE.



REVERSE.

INSIGNIA OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.



SEAL OF THE EMPIRE STATE SOCIETY, S. A. R.

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community, is the lineal descendant of an ancestor, who was at all times unflinching in his loyalty to and rendered actual service in the cause of American Independence, either as an officer, soldier, seaman, marine, militiaman or minute man, in the armed forces of the Continental Congress or of any one of the several colonies or states, or as a signer of the Declaration of Independence, or as a member of a committee of safety or correspondence, or as a member of any continental, provincial or colonial congress or legislature, or as a civil officer, either of one of the colonies or states, or of the government, during the period of the American Revolution, or as a recognized patriot, who performed actual service by overt acts of resistance to the authority of Great Britain.

ARTICLE VII.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.

Honorary Membership may be conferred upon any person eligible to membership in this Society.

ARTICLE VIII.

MANAGERS.

1. There shall be thirty Managers of the Society, nine of whom shall also be elected respectively as a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Third Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Historian, a Registrar and a Chaplain of the Society.

2. They shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting.

3. They shall be elected for one year, and shall hold office until their successors are elected and shall have accepted.

4. Vacancies in office shall be filled for the unexpired term.

5. The Managers heretofore elected shall hold office for the terms for which they were respectively elected.

6. The Managers shall constitute the Board of Managers.

7. Any Manager of the Society who shall be absent from three consecutive meetings of the Board of Management shall *ipso facto* vacate his office, unless such absence be excused by the Board of Managers for some *bona fide* and reasonable excuse.

ARTICLE IX.

DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES.

At each annual meeting the Society shall elect the number of delegates and alternates to the Congress of the National Society, to which it may be entitled.

ARTICLE X.

LOCAL CHAPTERS.

1. A charter for a local chapter may be granted by the Board of Managers to fifteen or more members of the Society residing in the same County, upon their written petition stating the proposed name, the County in which it is to be located, and the names of its proposed members. Such Chapter may adopt a Constitution and By-Laws not inconsistent with those of this Society or of the National Society.

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2. No person shall be admitted to membership in such Chapter unless he is a member in good standing of this Society; and all members of this Society shall be eligible for membership therein. Any member who shall in any way lose membership in the State Society shall thereupon cease to be a member of such Chapter.

3. Membership in a chapter shall not in any way change the relation nor impair the obligations of its members to this Society.

4. Upon the election of its officers, each local chapter shall report the same to the Secretary of this Society.

ARTICLE XI.

DISCIPLINE AND DISQUALIFICATION.

1. A member of this Society may be expelled by the Board of Managers by a two-thirds vote of those present at any meeting thereof, after notice and an opportunity to be heard, if he shall have been convicted of a crime; or he may be censured, suspended or expelled in like manner when proved guilty of conduct either unbecoming a gentleman, or prejudicial to the interests of the Society.

2. In like manner a membership may be terminated for failure to pay dues, and also upon discovery that the member was not eligible at the time of his election.

3. A member in arrears for dues cannot vote or hold office.

ARTICLE XII.

VACANCIES IN OFFICE.

An office shall become vacant by death, resignation or loss of membership. The Board of Managers shall have power to designate one of its members to discharge the duties of any vacant office until the next regular meeting of the Society, when it shall be filled by the Society.

ARTICLE XIII.

AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote of the members present either in person or by proxy, provided such proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing at a regular meeting held at least thirty days prior thereto, and shall have accompanied the notice for a meeting held at least thirty days subsequent to its presentation, and been mailed to every member at least fifteen days prior to such last-mentioned meeting.

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SECTION I.

ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.

Application for membership must be made in duplicate upon standard forms furnished by the Society, be recommended by two members, set out the pedigree of the applicant back to the ancestor on whose service the application is based, the

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qualifying service of said ancestor, the address of such applicant and such information as may be required to satisfy the Registrar of the validity of the claim, and other information as the applicant may desire. The Secretary shall forward the application to the Registrar and furnish the membership committee with the name and address of each applicant and of his recommendors. The Registrar and the Membership Committee shall separately investigate the application and report in writing to the Board of Managers, and the Board of Managers may then elect the applicant. Three negative votes shall exclude from membership. Upon such election the Secretary shall notify the applicant thereof, and he shall be admitted to membership upon the payment of his initiation fee and the dues to the first of April following.

SECTION II.

ELECTION OF HONORARY MEMBERS.

1. Any one eligible under the Constitution may, by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting, be elected an Honorary Member of the Society, if his name, together with the names of two proposers, shall have been published at a regular meeting held at least two months prior to the election. Honorary Members shall be exempt from the payments of fees and dues, but shall not vote, hold office or have any pecuniary interest in the property of this Society.

2. A person elected to Honorary Membership shall be notified thereof; and, if not accepted within six months after the mailing of the notice, the election may be canceled by the Society.

The Society shall be informed of the action of the person so elected.

SECTION III.

CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP.

Upon the payment of one dollar by a member he shall be entitled to receive a certificate of membership signed and sealed by the proper officers of the National Society and by the President, Secretary and Registrar of this Society.

SECTION IV.

WITHDRAWALS FROM MEMBERSHIP.

Any one not indebted to the Society may withdraw from Membership. Such withdrawal shall be in writing and addressed to the Board of Managers.

SECTION V.

TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP.

A member in good standing, upon his written application and by order of the Board of Managers, may be transferred to any other Society of the **SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**.

SECTION VI.

FEES AND DUES.

1. The initiation fee and the annual dues shall each be five dollars.
2. The annual dues shall be payable in advance on the first day of April in each

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year. Members elected prior to the first day of October shall pay dues for the whole year. Members elected on or after that day shall pay one-half the dues for the year.,

3. Members admitted by transfer from any other Society to which they have paid an initiation fee, shall be exempt from another initiation fee.

4. The payment at one time of seventy-five dollars by any member not indebted to the Society shall constitute him a life member, exempt from annual dues.

5. Annually on the 30th day of September the President and Secretary of each local chapter shall transmit to the Treasurer of this Society a certified list of the members of such Chapter, and on the 15th day of October, next following, the Treasurer of this Society shall transmit to the Treasurer of each Chapter two dollars for each member of such Chapter included in such list, who shall not be indebted to the Society.

SECTION VII.

MEETINGS.

1. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held in the City of New York at 8 P. M. on the fourth Tuesday of February in each year.

2. Regular meetings of the Society shall be held at 8 o'clock P. M. on the fourth Tuesday of the months of October, November, January, February, March, April and May.

3. A special meeting may be called by the President or by the Board of Managers and shall be called by the Secretary on the written request of fifteen members stating the object of such meeting. The Secretary shall give at least ten days' notice, by mail, of such meeting, stating the day, hour and place of meeting and the business for which it is called and no other business shall be transacted thereat.

4. The place of all meetings, except special meetings, shall be fixed by the Board of Managers and of special meetings by the officer or Board calling the same.

SECTION VIII.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE.

1. At the regular meeting of this Society in October in each year nominations shall be made for a nominating committee and the Secretary shall transmit with the notice for the regular meeting of the Society in November of each year a printed list of all the nominations so made.

2. There shall be elected by a plurality of votes and by ballot at the regular meeting of the Society in the month of November in each year a nominating committee of seven members, no one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Managers.

3. The nominating committee shall elect from among its members a sub-committee of not less than three, which shall examine the records of the Secretary, Treasurer and Registrar and report thereon to the Society at its January meeting.

4. At the regular meeting in January the nominating committee shall report in writing names of candidates for offices and for delegates and alternates to the Congress of the National Society.

SECTION IX.

NOMINATIONS BY MEMBERS.

Any seven members of the Society may, in writing signed by them and filed with

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the Secretary at least twenty days before the annual election, nominate candidates for any offices in the Society and for delegates and alternates.

SECTION X.

PUBLICATION OF NOMINATIONS.

1. Immediately upon being made, nominations shall be conspicuously posted in the office of the Secretary. All written nominations shall, upon request, be exhibited to any member in good standing.

2. The Secretary, at least fifteen days before the annual election, shall mail to each member of the Society printed ballots for all offices to be filled and a list of all persons nominated to fill the same and for delegates and alternates, together with the names of the persons by whom any nomination is made.

SECTION XI.

VOTING PERSONALLY OR BY PROXY.

1. Members may vote at any meeting of the Society either in person or by proxy.
2. The Board of Managers shall cause a blank proxy to be mailed to each member with all ballots.

SECTION XII.

INSPECTORS OF ELECTION.

At the regular meeting in January in each year the presiding officer thereof shall appoint three inspectors of election, no one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Managers. Failure of an inspector to attend at the opening of the polls shall make his place vacant. Such vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the inspectors who shall attend at the opening of the polls and, in case none attend, other inspectors shall be appointed by the voters then present.

SECTION XIII.

ANNUAL ELECTION.

The polls for the annual election shall be opened by the inspectors of election at the opening of the meeting and remain open until 10 o'clock P. M., and until all persons present, either in person or by proxy, entitled and desiring to vote, shall have had opportunity to do so. Any member may vote for any other member, though not nominated. On the closing of the polls the inspectors of election shall publicly canvass the votes cast and without delay certify to the presiding officer, over their signatures, the result of such canvass. The presiding officer shall then announce the result and declare elected the persons receiving a plurality of votes and such persons shall immediately assume the duties of their respective offices. If for any office no person shall receive a plurality of the votes cast therefor, a supplementary election shall be held at the next regular meeting of the Society and such election then be completed. The Secretary shall prepare new ballots giving the names of the candidates nominated and the offices to be filled and mail the same to each member of the Society at least fifteen days before such supplementary election. In case of failure to elect all the delegates or all the alternates and in case of failure of any to attend who were elected, their places shall be filled by the delegates present at the National Congress.

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SECTION XIV.

QUORUM.

1. Twenty one members of the Society shall constitute a quorum at its meetings.
2. Nine members of the Board of Managers shall constitute a quorum.
3. Each Committee may, by a majority vote, determine a quorum thereof.

SECTION XV.

NOTICES.

Every member shall, in writing, specify to the Secretary all changes of his address from that specified in his application, and service by mail of any notice required by the Constitution or By Laws, or by the Society or by the Board of Managers, addressed to his last address, as so specified, shall be sufficient service of such notice.

SECTION XVI.

PRESIDENT.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Managers and exercise the usual functions of a presiding officer. He shall be the executive head of the Society. He shall be *ex officio* a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

SECTION XVII.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

1. The Vice Presidents shall assist the President in the discharge of his duties and in the absence of the President from any meeting, shall, in order of precedence preside and perform the other duties of the President.

2. If at any time the President is unable, through absence, illness or otherwise to act as such, or should the office become vacant, the Vice-President able, and in order of precedence, shall act as President until he resumes his duties or the vacancy is filled.

SECTION XVIII.

SECRETARY.

The Secretary shall, under the direction of the President, the Society and the Board of Managers, conduct the general correspondence and keep a record thereof; notify all officers of their election and all committees of their appointment; all members of their election; all officers, committees and members of proceedings of the Society or of the Board of Managers, affecting them or their respective duties; notify the Registrar and Treasurer of all elections to membership and file with the Registrar applications and proofs of eligibility of all members elected; transmit to members their certificates; have charge of the seal and records, other than those deposited with the Registrar; certify acts of the Society and of the Board of Managers and of any officer and authenticate them when necessary under seal; give notice of the time and place of all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Managers and attend and keep fair and accurate record of all proceedings thereof; at the annual meeting and

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Officer if required, report to the Society the proceedings thereof and of the Board of Managers: the persons who have been admitted to membership, who have withdrawn, whose membership has been terminated and who have been expelled. He shall print the Treasurer's report for the fiscal year and mail copies thereof to every member with the notice for the annual meeting. He shall perform such other duties as may be required by the Society or the Board of Managers. In his absence from any meeting a Secretary *pro tempore* may be designated therefor, unless an Assistant Secretary shall be present to act.

SECTION XIX.

TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall collect all fees, dues and other funds of the Society, deposit the same weekly in the name of the Society in one or more banks approved by the Society or by the Board of Managers and withdraw the same only by his check for payments to be made by the authority of the Society or of the Board of Managers, submit a brief account of receipts and expenditures at each regular meeting of the Society and of the Board of Managers and a detailed account for the whole fiscal year at the January meeting and furnish to the Society and to the Board of Managers, from time to time, such information relative to the funds of the Society as either may require.

He shall give such security for the faithful performance of his duties as the Society or the Board of Managers may require.

In the case of the illness or absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman of the Finance Committee may act as Treasurer in his stead.

SECTION XX.

REGISTRAR.

The Registrar upon receipt of an application for membership shall investigate the proofs of eligibility and if not satisfactory require further proofs from the applicant and, when satisfied, approve and transmit the same to the Board of Managers and notify the Membership Committee thereof and, when referred to him for or bind in numerical or alphabetical order all applications for membership and make record of all proofs upon which membership shall have been granted; have custody of all genealogical papers of the Society, the same to be open to inspection by any member of the Society under the direction of the Society or Board of Managers; make or cause to be made for file in his office, copies of such documents as cannot be left permanently in the keeping of the Society. He shall perform such other duties as may be directed by the Society or the Board of Managers.

SECTION XXI.

HISTORIAN.

The Historian shall keep a record to be deposited with the Secretary of all celebrations of the Society; edit and prepare for publication such historical addresses, essays, papers and other documents as the Society or the Board of Managers may require and at every annual meeting submit a necrological list for the year, with biographical sketches of the deceased members.

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SECTION XXII.

CHAPLAIN.

The Chaplain shall be a regularly ordained minister of a Christian denomination and he shall perform such duties as ordinarily appertain to his office.

SECTION XXIII.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

At or after the annual meeting in each year the President shall appoint :

1. A Finance Committee of three members from the Board.
2. A Membership Committee of five members, no one of whom shall be a member of the Board.
3. An entertainment Committee of five members.

SECTION XXIV.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Finance Committee shall examine, audit and report upon the reports of the Treasurer and also all claims and accounts against the Society, before they shall be presented to the Society or to the Board of Managers; examine into the financial condition of the Society and suggest ways and means of increasing its revenues and of limiting its expenses and report from time to time to the Society and to the Board of Managers and whenever it shall be directed by the President or the Society or the Board of Managers. The Treasurer shall furnish it with such information as it shall desire. The Treasurer shall not be a member of the Finance Committee, but shall attend the meetings of the same when invited to do so.

SECTION XXV.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE.

The Membership Committee shall investigate all applications for membership, for the purpose of ascertaining if the applicant is worthy of admission into the Society and report in writing to the Board of Managers. The proceedings of such Committee shall at all times be secret and confidential.

SECTION XXVI.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE.

The Entertainment Committee shall perform such duties as the Society or the Board shall direct.

SECTION XXVII.

DEBTS AND CLAIMS.

No debt shall be incurred save only by authority of the Society or the Board of Managers, and then only when there shall be money in the Treasury to pay the same ;

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and every bill or claim for money, before action thereon, shall, as to the correctness thereof and the rightness of the charge, be certified by the officer or other person who shall have ordered the same.

SECTION XXVIII.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

1. The Board of Managers shall judge of the qualifications of applicants for membership and have power to elect applicants complying with the requirements of the Society.

2. It shall superintend the interests and affairs of the Society within the limitations of the Constitution and By-Laws. It shall be subject to the direction of the Society.

3. It shall recommend plans to the Society for promoting its purposes.

4. It may require the attendance at any of its meetings of any member of the Society, or any officer or committee, for consultation and advice, or other purpose and shall enforce obedience to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society.

5. It shall meet once in each month, excepting during the months of July, August and September, at such times as it shall fix and also on the call of the President, and also at the call of the Secretary, upon the written request of any five members of the Society.

6. It may, when it shall deem proper, appoint temporarily an Assistant Secretary and an Assistant Registrar, or either, and in each case for a specific time only.

SECTION XXIX.

DECEASE OF MEMBERS.

Upon the decease of any member, notice thereof, and of the time and place of the funeral, shall, if practicable, be given by the Secretary by publication in two prominent newspapers.

Any member having knowledge of the decease of another member shall promptly notify the Secretary thereof and furnish such information as shall be needed for publication. The decease of a member shall be communicated to the Society at the succeeding meeting.

SECTION XXX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. The Society may at any time, when deemed proper, appoint an Assistant Secretary, also an Assistant Registrar, and specify their respective terms and duties.

2. No moneys of the Society shall be appropriated to any purpose whatever, except for conducting its own business and for the objects of the Society as specified in the Constitution.

3. The fiscal year shall begin and end on the 15th day of January in each year, and the Treasurer's January report shall be printed and mailed to every member with the notice for the annual meeting.

SECTION XXXI.

AMENDMENTS.

These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Society by majority vote

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of the members present either in person or by proxy, provided such proposed amendment shall have been duly presented in writing at a regular meeting held at least thirty days prior thereto and shall have accompanied the notice for a meeting held at least thirty days subsequent to its presentation and been mailed to every member at least fifteen days prior to such last-mentioned meeting.

