

**GG 2021-2022 Email #4 to State Points of Contact December 22, 2021**

I send my warmest greetings for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We have filmed the second edition of Genealogy FAQ, which was held by the Zoom conference system on 23 November. Those who missed it will be able to watch the recording which will be available shortly. Look for an announcement.

At the recent Genealogy Committee meeting, an important change to how Memorial Memberships are processed. Memorial memberships, which are after all based on the membership application of a living compatriot, will not be examined the same way as new applications. Memorial memberships are an excellent way for members to honor their close relatives and their patriot ancestors.

A policy adopted by the Trustees (and recently amended on 11 Dec) requires applicants to present a birth certificate or court order specifying their sex as male. The requirement for a birth certificate has been in effect since 2017. The adopted amendment allows for the President General or me to make exceptions to the documentation requirements (for example, when the birth certificate is impossible to obtain or when it does not indicate the sex of the applicant). This is a good policy for the SAR I urge you to support it.

Our policy on expediting applications has been in effect now since 2012 and provides for different levels of approval in order to have applications expedited for immediate review. See Genealogy Policies 6.4000 for details. The policy allows expediting “for applicants who are nearing the end of their lives (in hospice care, extreme advanced age, etc.)” In the absence of other issues, we have taken “extreme advanced age” to mean over about 85 (remaining life expectancy of 6.0 years). “Illness,” as can be seen from the policy, would have to be severe. We are pleased to grant expedited consideration when appropriate but, when requesting, please be specific.

As a reminder, proof documents are to be submitted on 8 ½ X 11-inch paper or 8 ½ X 14-inch paper. It is not required that the proofs be on SAR watermarked paper, just the application itself. Don’t submit proofs on smaller paper even though the document might be smaller than that. Also, don’t submit proofs printed double sided; use separate sheets for proofs.

We have seen a decrease lately on applications pended because of the “state-level errors” that we count on you to catch prior to submission. Congratulations and thanks! Please be mindful and help us drive these to zero. The three most common state-level errors are 1) submitting DAR chapter copies instead of record copies; 2) submitting DAR/SAR applications with the bottom 3-inches cut off due to improper paper or printer settings; and 3) documents cited on the application but not included in the application packet.

I’m always glad to receive your comments. Just hit the reply button!

Bob Fish  
Genealogist General