

Violette Family Association

We Are One!

VioletteFamily.org
VioletteRegistry.com

www.Facebook.com/VioletteFamilyAssociation



Newsletter

August 2019

Voting is now open for revisions to the Constitution-Bylaws. The full text of this document can be viewed at VioletteRegistry.com/Constitution-Bylaws. Electronic voting ends September 30, 2019. Mail-in votes must be postmarked on or before September 30, 2019.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Violette Family Association has changed since its origin in 1978. Not only have we grown larger, we have added both web site presence as well as Facebook presence. We have greatly expanded our genealogical database from approximately 9,600 descendants to approximately 26,000 descendants of François Violet, and that database is available online for people to search their ancestry.

From the start, we were organized around having reunions every three years and that pattern continued from 1978 through 2014. However, no group came forward to host a Reunion in 2017 and as yet no group has indicated an interest in hosting one in 2020.

Our current Constitution and By-Laws called for Association business, such as election of officers, to be held at a Business Meeting associated with a Reunion. No Reunions meant no Business Meetings.

Your Officers have been concerned about how we can continue to transact business without Business Meetings and Reunions, and they decided this could only be addressed with changes to our Constitution and our By-Laws. They have been working for several months with back-and-forth proposals and revisions via email until on August 2, 2019 they met in a Board Meeting by teleconference and approved a final version.

These modifications need to be ratified by the Association members to go into effect. But since we have no Reunion on the horizon, and hence no Business Meeting, we ask the Association members to suspend the rules and allow voting electronically and by mail for consideration of the new Constitution and By-Laws. Once approved by two-thirds of the members voting on this issue, we will then have a basis for continuing to carry out the Association's business into the future.

This newsletter summarizes the changes adopted by the Board of Directors, but you can see the complete documents at VioletteRegistry.com/Constitution-Bylaws. This newsletter also includes a mail-in ballot to vote on this issue.

David A. Violette, President

DONATIONS

Your donations are important to keep the Violette Family Association running. You can

donate securely online at VioletteRegistry.com or send your donation to the Treasurer or President directly.

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In this and following pages the text shown in italics is taken from the actual Constitution or By-Laws.

MEETINGS

The changes call for Triennial Meetings and Special Meetings. The Triennial Meetings will follow the every-three-year pattern established in history, allowing for missing the 2017 date. The next Triennial Meeting will take place in 2020.

It is most desirable that a Triennial Meeting take place at a Reunion, but if not possible the changes allow for “virtual meetings” in place of a physical meeting. Virtual meetings can take place electronically and by mail and do not require the members to all be in a single location together.

Special Meetings can be called by the Board at any time, and may be physical meetings or virtual meetings.

These changes provide for normal business to be conducted at the Triennial Meetings whether at a Reunion or not. Thus, elections of officers and other business can be handled smoothly and predictably.

MEETING AGENDAS

“Meeting notices shall include the date and time of the meeting, and place if a physical meeting, and shall include an agenda for the meeting including topics to be discussed and items upon which a vote will be taken. Members may suggest agenda topics by submitting them in writing by mail or email to the President no later than 15 days prior to the meeting date. The Officers will determine if such topics will be included on that meeting’s agenda. No additional topics may be raised after that 15-day period prior to a meeting.”

Our plan is to update members on agenda change proposals at the web site and via email, but it will not be feasible to notify members by mail within that time period. We are trying to encourage members to keep an up-to-date email address on file with us so that we can keep in touch quickly and without the expense of mailing and postage.

VOTING

Voting at physical meetings would be no different from the current—you must be present at the meeting to vote and a majority of those present at the meeting will carry the motion.

Voting at virtual meetings would be done electronically or by mail, and a majority of those submitting votes will carry the motion. Electronic voting may be done via email or by going to the **VioletteRegistry.com** web site to cast a vote; members will be notified in the meeting notice how to do it.

“Official business of the Association shall be enacted by the Officers except for:

1. *Election of Officers*
2. *Changes to the Constitution or By-Laws*
3. *Other matters the Officers wish to bring before the members*

In any vote, a majority of those attending the meeting shall be required to pass a measure.

Voting at a Virtual Meeting shall be registered using an online voting system established for that vote by the Webmaster. Members not wishing to vote electronically may submit a vote in writing to the Secretary. A majority shall be determined using the total number of votes cast both electronically and in writing. No member may vote using more than one means and if duplicates are cast and they differ both votes will be discarded; if duplicate are cast and both are the same only one vote will be tallied.

A report of voting on any measure will be made at the web site immediately once votes are tallied and in the next occurring newsletter.”

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR EMAIL

You won’t get Association news if we don’t have a current email address or mailing address!
You can update those in your Member Profile or

send the info to Dave Violette at **President@VioletteFamily.org** or to his mailing address (see page 1).

OFFICERS

“This Association shall have a Board of Directors consisting of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and the immediate Past President. These five officers shall have voting privileges.”

Previously the Officers included only the first four; the fifth was added in order to have an odd number to avoid tie votes.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

“The Association shall have an Executive Committee consisting of the heads of the following committees, with titles as shown:

- Genealogy (Genealogist)
- Web Systems (Webmaster)
- Newsletter (Editor)
- Membership (Membership Secretary)
- History (Historian)
- Reunions (Reunion Master)

Those committee heads shall be appointed by the Officers.

The function of the Executive Committee is to provide advice to the Board of Directors in the various areas of specialty listed above as well as in any other matter. The Executive Committee does not have the power to take official actions on behalf of the Association except as directed by the Board and these By-Laws.”

Officers may also perform Executive Committee functions. Currently Rod Violette (#12) serves as both Secretary and Genealogist. Dave Violette (#621) serves as President, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, and Membership Secretary. Nancy Nolette (#1702) has served as DNA/Heraldry chair; these duties will be assumed under the new title of History and we will need a new person to head this up. Reunion Master is a new position and we have no one in that position at this time.

Dave Violette (#621) has been President since 2008.

Chris Violette Lippincott (#1058) has been Vice Pres since 2014.

Rod Violette (#12) has been Secretary since 2003.

Louiselle Violette (#125) has been Treasurer (this time) since 2014.

Paul Bunnell (#292) was President from 2008-2014.

**CHECK OUT VioletteRegistry.com WEB SITE!
 TRACE YOUR FAMILY TREE. MISSING MEMBERS?
 TELL OUR GENEALOGIST.**

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GENEALOGIST

“The Association may cause to be created and maintained a genealogical database intended to trace family history and lineages as far back as records can be found. This database shall be the record of lineage for the purposes of admitting members to the Association.

The Genealogist shall determine the software system to be used for the database and shall provide reports from the database to those asking for information.

The Genealogist shall be the arbiter on the validity of data submitted by others for inclusion in the database.”

Rod Violette (#12) has been our Genealogist since 2000, but Pete Violette (#1793) will be taking over that position on January 1, 2020.

WEBMASTER

“The Association may cause one or more domain names to be registered on behalf of the Association. The Webmaster shall be responsible for registering names upon approval of the Board of Directors.

The Webmaster shall direct creation of one or more web sites for registered domain(s) for the purpose of communicating with members and non-members about matters pertaining to the Association. Such web site(s) may include connection to the genealogical database to provide an online access to it. The Webmaster shall determine what other content such web site(s) are to include.

The Webmaster shall direct creation of an email system for the use of the Association and may assign email addresses for Officers of the Association. The WebMaster shall direct creation of accounts and maintain Association presence on various social media platforms as the Association may select.”

Dave Violette (#621) has been Webmaster since 2001 and is transitioning the position to Michelle Archambault (#1989).

\We currently have two domain names: **VioletteFamily.org** and **VioletteRegistry.com**. They both currently point to the same content. **VioletteFamily.org** was the original domain adopted by the Association but **VioletteRegistry.com** was added when the genealogical database was added to the web system.

We have email addresses associated with both domain names. These addresses reflect the position held (e.g.: President@VioletteFamily.org) to make it easier to transfer the duties to a newly-elected officer. Webmaster@VioletteRegistry.com is also in use currently.

Officers and Executive Committee members may choose to use an official email address or may continue to use their personal email address.

BE SURE TO LET THE GENEALOGIST KNOW IF YOU HAVE A NEW FAMILY MEMBER.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

“The Membership Secretary shall work to expand the membership of the Association and to serve the membership needs of members.

The Membership Secretary shall maintain the database of the members of the Association. The database contains data on all members since the Association started and records their current membership status. The database is stored on the web server with the Association’s web site(s) and programming at the web site is used to perform membership maintenance. Functions included include:

- *Responding to requests to join the Association.*
- *Responding to notices of mailing address changes and email changes.*
- *Responding to notices of marriages, deaths, and other changes in member status.*
- *Providing an electronic copy of the mailing list for printed newsletters and other communications of the Association.*
- *Being active in the Association’s Facebook Group and the Association’s Facebook Page to approve requests for membership there and inviting those who are part of those to become members of the Association itself.*
- *Sending requests for extending family information to include new generations and family groups not included in the genealogical database, in conjunction with the Genealogist.”*

The web system has menu-driven routines for maintaining the membership database, which makes much of the work much easier.

Dave Violette (#621) has acted as Membership Secretary since about 2001 and would like to hand this position off to another member. Contact him for details.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

“The Newsletter Editor shall direct publication of a newsletter on an as-needed basis. The newsletter will be distributed to all members electronically for those who elect to receive newsletters in that manner and by mail to the rest. The newsletter will also be available at the Association’s web site for downloading.”

We publish newsletters on an irregular basis, but usually once per year. The Newsletter Editor will be responsible for gathering news items and conferring with Board members for possible content in any newsletter. The Newsletter Editor is responsible for creating the newsletter document, arranging for printing and mailing, and preparing a PDF version for posting at the web site.

The Newsletter Editor may depend on the Membership Secretary for providing mailing lists for the printed version and on the Webmaster for getting electronic versions posted at the web site.

Microsoft Publisher has been used to produce newsletters since 2008, but the Newsletter Editor may choose to use a different tool in the future.

Dave Violette (#621) has been Newsletter Editor since around 2008 and would like to hand this position off to another member. Contact him for details.

REUNION MASTER

“The Association shall have reunions at such time and place the Officers determine. The purpose of the reunion is to allow Association members to gather to celebrate their relationships and to learn more about their ancestry.

The Reunion Master shall provide information and guidelines to hosting committees organizing such reunions.

The Association shall provide startup funds for the reunion committees and shall reimburse legitimate expenses made on behalf of a reunion.

The Association shall publicize reunions through newsletters, web site(s), and social media.”

The Reunion Master will be the Association’s point person for Reunion Committees. The Reunion Master will help the Reunion Committee organize and plan a Reunion and its budget and be their advisor on Reunion operations.

While the Reunion Master may choose to be directly involved in planning any Reunion, that person does not have to take on that role. The Reunion Master is intended to provide continuity from Reunion to Reunion.

SO WHAT ABOUT REUNIONS?

We have had fourteen Reunions in our 41-year history. While traditionally Reunions have been held every three years, our last one was held in 2014 in Van Buren ME.

Will we continue to hold Reunions? The current response from members seems to indicate we probably won’t. Despite numerous appeals, no one has come forward with a good proposal to host a Reunion.

The Association Board members are spread around the country and are not in a position to set and host a Reunion. We must depend as always on a local Host Committee to do the arrangements and planning for Reunions. The Board members and others in the Association always stand ready to help the Host Committee make those arrangements and do that planning, and the Reunion Master will provide a lot of help, but a local Host Committee is a must.

IMPORTANT REUNION SUPPORT

The Violette Family Association Board members and several others have had experience in planning and carrying out Reunions, and are very happy to help a local Host Committee. This is especially valuable during the setup phase and during the Reunion itself, so the Host Committee does not have to do it all themselves!

Help with mailing lists, newsletters, web site content, registration forms and data, and many more aspects is provided by Association Officers in support of the Host Committee.

The Association has funds necessary to do the setup and advance arrangements.

Contact a Board member if you are interested.

REUNION PLANNING GUIDELINES

Those who have put on Reunions in the past have put together a **Reunion Planning Guidelines** document to help those considering hosting a Reunion to learn what is involved. This is available at our web site **VioletteRegistry.com**, or by request from the Reunion Master or the President. At the web site, go to **Reunions**, then **Planning Document**, and download the PDF file.

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THE MOTION AND THE VOTING FORM

Shall the Association suspend the requirement of voting only at a Business Meeting held at a Reunion and vote to approve the changes to the Association’s Constitution and By-Laws as proposed by the Board of Directors?

Yes

No

Abstain

Member name: _____ VFA#: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email address: _____

Mail this ballot to:
Rod Violette
Secretary, Violette Family Association
1775 Barn Valley Ln
Lincoln, CA 95648

PLEASE VOTE ON THESE CHANGES

Voting on the changes in the Association’s Constitution and By-Laws requires a two-step process, since the current documents require such actions to take place at a Business Meeting held in conjunction with a Reunion, and we have no Reunions planned. To approve the Board’s changes requires first suspending the rules to allow this vote to take place outside a Reunion and then acting on the motion to adopt. In the voting form above both actions are included in the motion, so only one vote is needed.

You can use the ballot form above and mail the complete ballot as indicated, or if you received this newsletter by email you will have had included an electronic ballot form to submit.

The motion will be adopted if at least two-thirds of those voting cast a Yes vote. Only those mail-in votes postmarked on or before September 30, 2019 will be counted. Electronic voting ends on the same date.

Only those mail-in votes postmarked on or before September 30, 2019 will be counted. Electronic voting ends on the same date.

Voting results will be posted at VioletteRegistry.com on or before October 15, 2019.

Violette Family Association
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THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAINS IMPORTANT VOTING MATTERS.

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HAVE NEW FAMILY MEMBERS?

Don't forget to let us know so we can add them to the Family Tree and as members of the Violette Family Association!



PayPal - The safer, easier way to pay online.