

THE
CONSTITUTION

AND

BYE-LAWS

OF THE

United Beneficial Society

OF

Baltimore.

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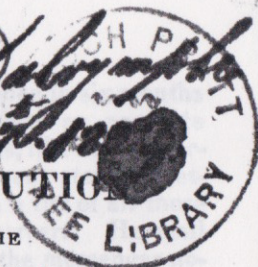
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William Dabney
November 27, 1938
CONSTITUTION
OF THE



United Beneficial Society
OF BALTIMORE.

PREAMBLE.

WE, whose names are hereunto subscribed, do agree to form ourselves into a society for social and benevolent purposes, to be known and distinguished by the name of the UNITED BENEFICIAL SOCIETY OF BALTIMORE; to be organized as follows:

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—Of Officers and their Duty.

SEC. 1.—The officers of this society shall consist of a president, vice-presi-

dent, secretary, treasurer, five stewards and a messenger, to be elected annually, on the third Tuesday in March.

—In case of death, resignation, expulsion, or removal from the limits of the society, (which shall be considered to extend two miles from the court-house in the city of Baltimore,) of any of the officers, except the president or vice-president, the president shall appoint one of the members to fill the vacancy until an election shall take place, which shall be at the next stated meeting.

SEC. 3.—It shall be the duty of the president, (and in his absence, the vice-president,) to preside at all the meetings of the society, to preserve order, and to state all questions that are moved and seconded during the meeting. He shall subscribe all public acts of the society. He shall also call an extra meeting whenever he is requested in writing by seven members of the society.

SEC. 4.—The secretary shall keep fair records of the proceedings of the society.

It shall be his duty once in six months to lay before the society an accurate statement of its affairs, likewise to furnish the stewards at every stated meeting of the society with a list of all those members who are in arrears. He shall fill up and deliver to the messenger notices of all special meetings of the society.

SEC. 5.—The treasurer shall hold in his possession a sum not exceeding fifty dollars of the monies of the society, and shall give receipts to the stewards for such sums as he may receive. He shall pay all orders signed by a majority of the stewards and countersigned by the president or vice-president, which orders shall be his vouchers for such expenditures. He shall give into the hands of his successor in office, within three days after his election, all monies and effects belonging to the society then remaining in his possession.

SEC. 6.—It shall be the duty of the stewards to receive all monies due the society, and after providing the trea-

suree with the sum not exceeding fifty dollars, shall invest the balance as the society may direct. It shall be their duty to visit within twenty-four hours, after application in writing, all sick or disabled members residing within the limits of the society, and convey to them such relief as is provided for them by the constitution, if in their judgment the affliction be such as to prevent the person so applying from attending to his occupation or calling.

SEC. 7.—The messenger shall attend personally at each and every meeting of the society, to keep the place of meeting in order; serve written or printed notices to the members of the time and place of meeting, and other necessary matters relating to the business of the society, as often as he may be required by the secretary, and furnished with notices.

SEC. 8.—The whole of the officers shall meet on the second Tuesday in each month, and when so met shall constitute a board to take into considera-

tion the general state of the society.—To this board all doubtful claims for money shall be referred, subject to an appeal to the society, whose decision shall be final; and it shall be the duty of the board to inspect all the books and accounts of the society, and if any error or defect appear, they shall have power to correct the same, and to adjust the receipts and expenditures. Once in every six months, or at every semi-annual meeting, they shall report their proceedings to the society. If any officer neglect to attend any of the above meetings, he shall pay a fine of 50 cts. except he have a constitutional excuse.

ARTICLE II.—*Of Members.*

SEC. 1.—Any person to become a member of this society must be between the age of twenty-one and forty-five years, and free from all bodily affliction that would have a tendency to render him burthensome to the society. He must possess a good moral character; and must be elected by two-thirds of

the members present at the time of his election.

SEC. 2.—On application of any person for membership, the president shall appoint a committee of three members, whose duty it shall be to enquire into the constitutional qualifications of such person, and report at the next stated meeting to the society, previous to his election; and in case either of the members so appointed shall omit the duties hereby assigned, he shall be fined fifty cents, unless satisfactory reasons for such omission be given to the society.

SEC. 3.—Each person on being duly elected shall sign the constitution and pay into the hands of the stewards, if between the age of 21 and 35 years, three dollars; and if between the age of 35 and 45 years, shall pay five dollars; one half to be paid at the time of application.

ARTICLE III.—*Of Meetings and Contributions.*

SEC. 1.—There shall be twelve stated meetings in each year, at such time and

place as the society may direct, when each member shall pay the sum of fifty cents as a monthly contribution.

SEC. 2.—All meetings of the society shall be opened with prayer, by the president, or some suitable person nominated by him on the occasion.

ARTICLE IV.—*Of Fines & Forfeitures.*

SEC. 1.—Any member neglecting to attend any of the meetings of the society, shall pay a fine of 25 cts. except in case of family or personal sickness, or absence from the limits; and if such delinquent member neglect to pay his contributions for three months, he shall forfeit his membership, and be precluded from all the benefits of this society; but if he apply in person within three months thereafter and discharge all his arrears, and pay one dollar extra, he shall be reinstated; *Provided* a majority concur therein. All contributions and fines will be accepted when tendered in full at any time previous to adjournment.

SEC. 2.—Any officer, for the neglect or improper performance of his duty, may be fined at the discretion of the society.

SEC. 3.—Any member refusing to pay a fine inflicted by the society, or incurred under the constitution or bye-laws, shall forfeit his membership.

SEC. 4.—Any distant member neglecting to pay his contribution for one year, shall at the expiration thereof forfeit his membership.

ARTICLE V.—*Of Expulsion.*

SEC. 1.—Any member being guilty of immoral conduct, whereby the society may be disgraced, or of attempting to impose on the society, may be expelled at any stated or special meeting: *Provided*, two-thirds of the members present concur in such expulsion.

SEC. 2.—Should any member feign himself sick or disabled, for the purpose of deriving benefit from the society; or while drawing benefits therefrom be found at his usual business or occupa-

tion, except giving the necessary directions to those employed about him, such member shall be expelled the society and forfeit all rights therein.

SEC. 3.—Should any member of this society be convicted in a court of justice of any felonious practice, he shall thereupon be considered as expelled from this institution; and should any member be accused of intoxication, or any vicious habit, that may injure himself and family, or disgrace the society, such member shall be served with a written notice, signed by the president, stating the nature of the accusation or charge preferred against him, with a request for him to attend the next stated or special meeting, to answer the same; and after hearing the charge or charges against him, and his defence, (if he attends and denies the charge or charges,) a decision shall be made by ballot, and if it appear that two-thirds of the members present consider the accused guilty, he shall be expelled, and forfeit all the monies which he has paid, as well as all

further interest in the society; and if the accused member shall neglect or refuse to attend, he shall be proceeded against as though he was present.

SEC. 4.—Any member of this society joining the army or entering on board any armed vessel, and whilst in the service of the same be disabled, such member shall have *no* claim on the society.

SEC. 5.—Any member who may have been expelled, shall have the privilege of an appeal to any stated or special meeting of the society within six months after the time of his expulsion, if a resident member; and if a distant member, twelve months.

ARTICLE VI.—*Of Benefits.*

SEC. 1.—Any person after being six months a member of the society, shall be entitled, upon written application, to receive the sum of three dollars for the first, and six dollars for each succeeding week during his indisposition, while so much remains in the funds: *Provided*, his sickness does not arise from immoral

conduct: but he shall not be entitled to any support for such affliction unless the application be made during the time of its continuance; and the stewards shall in no case pay any resident member's claim for time elapsed more than one week previous to application. The stewards shall have a discretionary power, and may require the aid of a physician in all cases of doubt as to the capability of a member to attend to his business.

SEC. 2.—At the death of any benefit member of the Society, the sum of forty dollars shall be advanced by the society towards defraying the funeral expences, and at the next stated meeting thereafter an extra contribution of one dollar from each member, shall be paid to the widow, or orphan children, or the legal representative of such deceased member.

SEC. 3.—If at any time after this society shall have become eighty members strong, a member (not being a benefit member,) die, \$ 20 shall be advanced to

defray funeral expences, and 25 cents paid by each member at the next stated meeting to replenish the funds.

SEC. 4.—Resident members who may be taken ill while beyond the limits, or who may be removed from the limits while ill, shall while so absent, draw their benefits in the same manner as distant members.

SEC. 5.—Any member residing within the limits of the United States of America, shall be entitled to the same assistance, (his dues being paid) as if he resided within the jurisdiction of the Stewards, provided that the application shall be made to the President, or one of its members, in writing, (any who may at that time reside in the City of Baltimore.) Such application shall particularly designate his place of residence, the nature of his indisposition, and the cause from which it proceeds, so far as in his power; and such application shall be accompanied by the Certificate of a Minister of the Gospel, or a Justice of the Peace, of the Town or

County, in which he resides, together with the signature of the attending Physician, provided there be one, which shall declare that they have examined the bye-laws, rules and regulations of the United Beneficial Society of Baltimore; that they have enquired into the situation of the applicant, as well as into the nature of his indisposition, and he believes him (naming the applicant) to be entitled to the benefits as specified in the constitution. All such applications to be renewed within four weeks from the date thereof.

ARTICLE VII.—*Of Amendments.*

No motion to alter or amend this constitution, shall be taken into consideration, or acted upon but at a stated meeting, nor until it has been one month presented for adoption.

BYE-LAWS.

The stated meetings of the society shall be held on the 3d Tuesday evening in each month; the stated and special meetings to be as follows viz: May, June, and July at 8 o'clock; August, September, and April at 7½; October, February, and March 6½; and November, December, and January at 6 o'clock.

Twenty minutes after the time appointed for meeting, the roll shall be called, and each member absent at the conclusion of roll call, shall be fined twenty five cents. The first business after roll call shall be to elect new members.

2. Persons elected, if present, shall sign the constitution and pay their entrance.

3. The members to pay in their contributions and fines.

4. The minutes of the last stated meeting shall be read, likewise the minutes of any special meeting that may have taken place since the last stated meeting.

5. The Stewards shall report their proceedings since the last stated meeting of the society, in writing, signed by their chairman, or a majority of them.

6. New members may be proposed, and the committee appointed accordingly. After which unfinished business may be taken up.

7. No motion shall be received unless seconded; after which it shall be stated by the President before debate.

8. No member shall speak more than twice on the same subject, unless to explain, without leave from the society.

9. When a question is under consideration, no motion shall be received unless to amend or postpone it, except a motion to read the minutes of the current meeting, which shall always be in order, and be decided without debate, but no motion to read the minutes shall pass unless approved by three fourths of the members present, and as soon as the minutes are read, the President shall adjourn the meeting.

10. Any person being duly elected and not being present, at the time of his

election, shall be notified by his proposer, and shall attend within three months thereafter, and sign the constitution, and pay his entrance money and all contributions that may be due, his membership to bear date from the time of his election. And in case he does not attend, he shall have the privilege of sending the above sum by any member (within the time specified) he may think proper with authority to sign on his behalf: and if he neglect to attend and pay as above, and also neglect to send the above sum and authority to sign, shall forfeit his election. Any person so forfeiting, shall not be eligible for membership, under six months, unless a satisfactory reason be given to the society for such neglect.

11. Any person leaving the room previous to adjournment, without permission from the society, shall be fined twenty-five cents.

12. If a member reproach another for having received his weekly support, or other just dues of the society, he shall pay a fine not exceeding ten dollars, to be adjudged by the society.

13. If an officer neglect to attend any of the meetings of the society, within twenty minutes after the appointed time, he shall be fined fifty cents, except in case of family or personal sickness or absence from the limits.

14. The society, while electing members, or acting upon any other business of such a nature as to involve the character of any individual, or requiring secrecy, shall be bound not to divulge any circumstance which transpires on such occasions; and should a member violate this rule, he shall be fined, censured or expelled, at the discretion of the society; nevertheless, no person so offending shall be fined, censured or expelled, unless two thirds of the members present shall concur in such decision.

15. Any member of this society, who shall invite or bring with him, to any of the meetings, a person who is not a member, shall be fined one dollar.

16. The President shall decide all questions of order, but any member dissenting from his decision, may appeal

to the society, when if such appeal is seconded, the society shall determine the case.

17. Any resident member changing his place of residence, and neglecting to inform the secretary, or messenger thereof in two weeks after his removal, shall be subject to fines for not attending any extra meeting, in the same manner as though he had been notified.

18. The chairman of the stewards shall keep regular entries of all monies received and distributed by them.

19. Any member being fined under the bye-laws, shall have the privilege of an appeal to the society, and if a majority of the members present think the excuse reasonable the fine shall be remitted.

20. Fifteen members shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

21. There shall be a committee appointed once in six months, for the purpose of examining the books of the society.

MEMBERS' NAMES.

Maybury Parks, President.
John S. Reese, Vice-President.
Cyrus Davis, Secretary.
Abraham Sliver, Treasurer.

Alexander Gaddis,
Elias Ford,
George C. Addison,
David Whitson,
Samuel Clayton,
John Davis, Messenger.

} Stewards.

Charles Baker.

Aaron Cain.

John Ross.

John Bennett.

John Hyatt.

Jacob Sheet.

Jacob Parrish.

Sterling Thomas.

Wm. Denyer.

Samuel Rust.

MEMBERS' NAMES.

Wm. B. Ross.
Robert G. Sheves.
Henry Jones.
James Belfer.
James L. Smith.
James Crocker.
Jonathan Fitch.
Samuel Miller.
George Deems, jr.
Edward Ing.
James Buck.
Stephen Ashley.
Wm. Marfield.
John H. Westwood.
Henry Horn.
John P. Howard.
Joshua C. David.
Jonathan Mullan.
James Lerew.
John A. Young.
Samuel Mather.
Robert W. Tindell.
James H. Lee.
William Fusselbaugh.

MEMBERS' NAMES.

John Gould.
Lloyd M^cCubbin.
Wm. Armor.
William Booth.
Henry Myers.
Wm. Johnson.
William Robison.
Abraham Lee.
E. D. Norris.
Charles Webb.
John Hull.
Robert Frederick.
Christopher Charles.
Isaac S. Addison.
Samuel Bellinger.
John Patrick.
John Grimes.
Augustus Stansberry.
Amos Davis.
Conduce Gatch.
Richard J. Matchett.
Joseph Matlack.
Peter Claudes, jr.
James Brant.

MEMBERS' NAMES.

John Holland.
Peter Frederick.
John Samerville.
Jeremiah Frazier.
Daniel McDilton.
John Fimble.
— *Hammand.*
John Shawaker.