

Female Charitable Society of Portsmouth, Virginia Broadside, 1804

A number of Females of the Town of Portsmouth, assembled at the house of Josiah Fox, on the 4th of May, 1804, and agreed to form themselves into a Society, under the name of the

FEMALE CHARITABLE SOCIETY, OF PORTSMOUTH.

The sole object of which, is to extend relief to all White Female sufferers, particularly children within the Town of Portsmouth.

THEY THEN AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING RULES.

I. MEMBERS shall be admitted into the Society by a vote of a majority of the Members present, at any quarterly, or annual meeting of the Society.

II. EVERY Member exclusive of the donation their benevolence may bestow, shall pay twenty-five cents, at every quarterly meeting.

III. THE following Officers shall be chosen annually, by a majority of votes of the Members present at the quarterly meeting in May, from amongst the resident Members, viz. a First Directress—a Second Directress—a Secretary—a Treasurer—Six Solicitors, and Six Visitors.—N.B. The number of Solicitors and Visitors, may be increased if thought expedient by the Society.

IV. THE First Directress, shall preside at all meetings of the Society and Board of Managers, preserve order, state questions for discussion, and declare the decision ; in all divisions she shall have a casting vote : with the advice of the Board, she shall call special meetings of the Society, she shall see that its regulations be duly observed, and shall take an active superintendance of its general welfare—in case of her inability to perform the duties of her station, they shall devolve for the time being, on the Second Directress ; if both be absent from any meeting of the Society or Board, a Directress shall be chosen for that meeting.

**Citation: Hummel, R.O. Southeastern broadsides 3136, Broadside Collection,
The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.**

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V. THE Secretary shall keep a register of the Members' names, collect the quarterly payments, and pay the money into the hands of the Treasurer ; shall notify the meetings of the Society, record their proceedings, and render at every stated meeting, a regular account of the money received by her, and paid to the Treasurer, and of monies due ; she shall attend the meetings of the Board, and examine their accounts.

VI. THE Treasurer shall take charge of the money collected for the Society, make all their disbursements, attend the meetings of the Board, examine their expenditures, and all render to the Society at every stated meeting, an account of its funds, and of her receipts and payments.

VII. THE Solicitors shall ask donations for the Society of well disposed persons, and pay what they may receive into the hands of the Treasurer.

VIII. THE Visitors shall seek amongst the distressed, for suitable objects to partake the benefit of the institution.

IX. ALL the official Members shall constitute a Board to manage the business of the Society; which Board shall meet quarterly, viz. on the first Monday in May, August, November and February, at 3 o'clock, P.M. and at such other times as the First and Second Directress may think necessary on any emergency, and seven Members shall be competent to transact business.

XI. THE meeting in May, shall be considered as an anniversary, at which all the Members be present, and a full statement of the affairs of the Society, be laid before them.

XII. EVERY meeting shall be opened with reading a portion of the word of God and prayer, and closed with prayer.

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XIII. NO partiality for religious sects or country to be observed, either as to membership in the Society, or objects of their benevolence.—The only consideration as to the objects must be—she is in distress—we must help if we can, if we cannot do all we sould, let us do what we can.

N.B. IT is recommended that to every official Member, to make notes of their transactions and notable circumstances that may turn up, relative to the concerns of the Socociety, and lay the same before the Board.

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