

# RAM LODGE ASOKA №. 172

## BYLAWS

### PREAMBLE

It is necessary for good governance and well-being of every institution and lawfully organized society that a set of Rules and Regulations be framed to guide its members on that, which is acceptable, and, equally, on the ones that are to be eschewed. Accordingly, the Worshipful Commander Noah, the Wardens and the Brethren of RAM LODGE ASOKA NO. 172, for the purpose of preserving that harmony which should always distinguish Mark Master Masons, do hereby establish and agree to the Bylaws, which are consistent with and conform to the Laws contained in the Book of Constitutions of Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.

RAM LODGE ASOKA has been founded in Chennai under the Warrant dated 12th of August 2016, corresponding to the 21st day of Sravana 1938 Saka Era, from the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India and the Lodge was consecrated and constituted into a Regular Lodge, by **M.W. Bro. Harcharan Singh Ranauta**, M.W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India, on the 21st day of Sravana in the Saka Era of 1938, corresponding to the Gregorian calendar of Friday, the 12th August 2016 and is Moored to Mark Lodge Asoka No. 172 on the Roll of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.

### MEMBERS

1. The Members of the Lodge shall comprise two classes, namely Subscribing Members, and Honorary Members.
  - a) **Subscribing Members:** All the Founder Members and those members ordinarily residing within the limits of District of Chennai but initiated into or joined or rejoined the Lodge as per the provisions of Book of Constitution.
  - b) **Honorary Members:** Any Ark Mariner of good standing and worthy of such distinction by reason of his service to the Craft or to the particular Lodge, who is or within the previous year has been a subscribing member of a Regular Daughter Lodge, may be elected as such by the Lodge in accordance with Rule 103 of the Book of Constitutions.

### MEETINGS

2. The Regular Meetings of the Lodge shall be held at Freemasons' Hall, 14, Ethiraj Salai, Egmore, Chennai 600 008 on the Third Wednesdays of May, August, November and February or at such other place and time as the Worshipful Commander Noah may fix from time to time.

### EMERGENCY MEETING

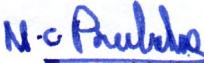
3. An Emergency Meeting of the Lodge may be held for the purposes mentioned in the Book of Constitutions and in accordance with the provisions thereof.

### ELECTION AND INSTALLATION MEETING

4. The Worshipful Commander Noah of the Lodge shall be elected annually by ballot in Open Lodge at the Regular Election Meeting in the month of August and shall be installed at the next



W. Bro. P. Srinivasan  
W. Commander



Bro. N.C. Prabhakar  
Senior Warden



Bro. L. Manoharan  
Junior Warden



Bro. S. Srikanth  
Scribe

Regular Meeting in the month of November every year except during the consecration year and the first Installation meeting after the consecration will be held in November 2016.

5. The Treasurer of the Lodge shall be elected annually by ballot in Open Lodge at the Regular Election Meeting in the month of August.
6. The Warder, if a serving member, shall be elected annually by show of hands at the Regular Election Meeting in the month of August.

## OFFICERS

7. The Regular Officers of the Lodge shall comprise the Worshipful Commander Noah, the Immediate Past Commander, the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, the Treasurer, the Scribe, the Senior Deacon, the Junior Deacon, the Guardian, and the Warder.
8. The Commander may appoint as additional officers a Chaplain, a Director of Ceremonies, an Assistant Director of Ceremonies, an Assistant Scribe and up to four Stewards and none other.

## ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

9. No person shall be considered for being admitted as a Member of the Lodge unless and until the Membership Committee of the Lodge considers and reports favourably to the Lodge upon the character, qualifications and general desirability of the candidates proposed for Membership.
10. Applications for Elevation, Joining or Rejoining shall be deposited with the Secretary at least fourteen days before the Meeting at which the Candidate is to be proposed and seconded.
11. A Candidate for Elevation or a Brother desirous of joining or rejoining the Lodge shall be admitted in accordance with and as per rules 98 to 102 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India. In all cases of unfavorable ballot, the fees shall be returned at the time when the information is furnished.
12. A candidate or a Brother rejected on ballot for Elevation or membership shall not be eligible to be proposed again until after the expiry of One Year from the date of such rejection.

## FEES

13. The scale of Fees and Subscription shall be as follows:

### 13.A. FEE STRUCTURE:

#### i. Elevation:

- ! Elevation Fee payable to the Lodge Rs. 2,000/-

*Additionally, the following fees are payable:*

- ! Annual Subscription payable to the Lodge (as in Bylaw 13(B))
- ! Advancement Fees payable to the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India and to the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India as applicable from time to time.

*V.K. Jayaram*  
W Bro. P. Srinivasan  
W. Commander

*N.C. Prabhakar*  
Bro. N.C. Prabhakar  
Senior Warden

*L. Manoharan*  
Bro. L. Manoharan  
Junior Warden

*S. Srikanth*  
Bro. S. Srikanth  
Scribe

ii. Joining From Indian Constitution:

- ! Joining Fee payable to the Lodge Rs. 2,000/-

*Additionally, the following fees are payable:*

- ! Annual Subscription payable to the Lodge (as in Bylaw 13(B))
- ! Joining Fees payable to the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India and to the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India as applicable from time to time.

iii. Joining from Other Constitutions:

- ! Joining Fee payable to the Lodge Rs. 2,000/-

*Additionally, the following fees are payable:*

- ! Annual Subscription payable to the Lodge (as in Bylaw 13(B))
- ! Joining Fees payable to the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India and to the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India as applicable from time to time.

iv. Re-Joining:

- ! Re-joining Fee payable to the Lodge Rs.500/-

*Additionally, the following fees are payable:*

- ! Annual Subscription payable to the Lodge (as in Bylaw 13(B))
- ! Re-joining Fees payable to the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India and to the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India as applicable from time to time.
- ! The above Fees are payable in advance before Elevation or Joining or Rejoining.
- ! A candidate for Elevation, Joining or Re-Joining at any part of the year shall pay the full annual subscription.

**13.B. MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTION:**

The Annual Membership fees payable to the Lodge shall consist of:

1. Annual Subscription payable to the Lodge Rs.500/-

*Additionally, the following fees are payable:*

2. Annual dues payable to the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India and to the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India as applicable from time to time.

  
W Bro. P. Srinivasan  
W. Commander

  
Bro. N.C. Prabhakar  
Senior Warden

  
Bro. L. Manoharan  
Junior Warden

  
Bro. S. Srikanth  
Scribe

3. The above subscriptions shall be payable in advance each year and the official year shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> of November of every English year.
4. Honorary Members are not liable to pay any subscription fees.
14. Any Candidate at whose request, an Emergency Meeting is convened shall pay a fee of Rs. 500/- and also such other expenses which are incurred on account of holding such Emergency Meeting.

## **EXCLUSION**

15. Any Member, whose subscription remains unpaid for two years after it becomes due, shall be liable for exclusion in accordance with the provisions contained in Rule 110 of the Book of the Constitutions.
16. Any Member, who has been excluded under Bye-Law No. 15 may be permitted to rejoin, provided he pays all arrears due of him and the prescribed fees for Rejoining and he is regularly proposed and balloted for favourably in accordance with Rule 101 of the Book of Constitutions.

## **RESIGNATION**

17. Any Member of the Lodge may resign his membership by notifying such Resignation by a written notice to the Secretary or by a declaration in open Lodge. The resignation takes effect in accordance with Rule 107 of the Book of Constitutions. Any Member who has resigned his Membership, will be permitted to rejoin on payment of Rejoining Fee and any arrears due, but shall be subject to a fresh ballot.

## **DUTIES OF THE SCRIBE**

18. i) The Scribe shall conduct the general correspondence, record the Minutes of the proceedings, issue Summons for all Meetings, keep the Membership Register and prepare and submit all returns due to Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India and Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India. He shall also be the Ex-officio Secretary of the Standing Committee.
- ii) The Scribe along with the outgoing incumbent in the said office, shall every year, soon after taking charge of his office but not later than the next Regular Meeting of the Lodge, prepare an inventory of all articles, books, and records of the RAM Lodge and sign the same, countersigned by the Worshipful Commander Noah and the Immediate Past Commander and place the same before the Standing Committee for its inspection and information.
- iii) He shall also keep in safe custody all records and take charge of the Lodge seal.
- iv) He shall make payment for petty contingent expenses for which purpose he shall receive an advance of not more than Rs. 1,000/-

## **DUTIES OF THE TREASURER**

19. i) The Treasurer shall collect all fees and monies due to or held for the Lodge and shall issue official receipts for the same. He shall without undue delay deposit them in an

*W Bro. P. Srinivasan*  
W. Commander

*Bro. M.C. Prabhakar*  
Senior Warden

*Bro. L. Miandaran*  
Junior Warden

*Bro. S. Srikanth*  
Secretary

appropriate account in the name of the Lodge at a Scheduled Bank approved by a resolution of the Lodge.

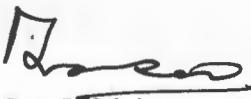
- ii) The Treasurer shall keep accounts of the General Fund, the Benevolent / Charity Fund and other Funds of the Lodge.
- iii) The Treasurer, the Worshipful Commander Noah and the Scribe shall carry out all financial transactions of Lodge. The Treasurer and any one of the other two officers, namely the Commander or the Secretary shall be the joint signatories to the operation of the bank accounts and all financial transactions of the Lodge.
- iv) The Treasurer shall regularly enter a complete record of all transactions and monies passing through his hands in the proper books of accounts.
- v) The Treasurer shall prepare a Statement of Accounts annually made up as on 31st October of each year showing the exact financial position of the Lodge and submit the same to the Audit Committee.
- vi) The Treasurer shall at every Regular Meeting submit and read in open Lodge, a Statement of Accounts for the period from the preceding Regular Meeting to the current Regular meeting.
- vii) The Lodge, by a resolution, may also invest its funds in approved Fixed Deposits or bonds in banks, Government and other recognized institutions.

### **DUTIES OF WARDER**

- 20. i) The Warder shall prepare the Lodge for the meetings and see that every Brother, whether a Member or a Visitor is properly clothed, prior to admission into the Lodge. The Warder shall also be in charge of the Collars, Aprons, etc., belonging to the Lodge.
- ii) In case the Warder is a serving brother, he shall receive for the proper discharge of his duties, a fee as decided by the Standing Committee from time to time, for every meeting attended by him.

### **PROPOSITIONS**

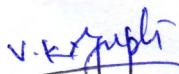
- 21. i) No motion unless it is purely formal or technical shall be raised in the Lodge at any Meeting for which Notice has not been given in the previous Regular Meeting or by a Communication addressed to the Scribe not less than 14 days before the meeting at which meeting such proposition is to be considered. The said motion shall be included in the Summons.
- ii) In the case of a tie on any vote arising out of consideration of such proposition(s), the Worshipful Commander Noah shall have the right of a casting vote, which shall decide the ballot.
- iii) No question once decided shall be raised again without the permission of the Worshipful Commander or until three months have elapsed after its last decision.

  
W Bro. P. Srinivasan  
W. Commander

  
Bro. N.C. Prabhakar  
Senior Warden

  
Bro. L. Manoharan  
Junior Warden

  
Bro. S. Srikanth  
Scribe

  
V.K. Jayaram

## **PERMANENT /STANDING COMMITTEE**

22. i. The Worshipful Commander, all Past Commanders of and in the Lodge, Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies and two members elected at the Installation Meeting shall constitute the Standing Committee.

ii) It shall be the duty of this Committee to check the accounts, make arrangements for the meetings and consider all the matter connected with the working of the Lodge, to inspect and check all the properties of the Lodge, and report upon general questions affecting the Lodge. The Worshipful Commander Noah, if present shall preside and in his absence, the Immediate Past Commander or in his absence, the senior-most Brother present shall preside. The role of the Standing Committee is to assist the Worshipful Commander Noah and his officers in the well ruling of the Lodge; whereas the Standing Committee may make recommendations on financial matters of the Lodge such matters shall however have to be deliberated, voted and decided upon only in Open Lodge. The Standing Committee shall meet on such date and time as the Worshipful Commander Noah may order once before each Regular Meeting. A quorum of the Standing Committee is deemed to have been met if five or more members of the Committee assemble to transact any business pertaining to the Lodge, and the result of its proceedings shall be reported at the following Regular Meeting of the Lodge.

iii) It shall be the duty of the Committee to submit at the Installation Meeting an Annual Report containing the details of the workings, events and status of the Lodge for the year and its recommendations for the consideration of the Lodge.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

23. The Lodge shall elect at the Regular Installation meeting, a Membership Committee consisting of two members for the purpose considering and reporting to the Lodge upon the character, qualifications and the general desirability of the candidates proposed for membership of the Lodge.

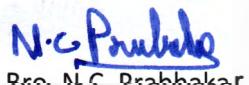
## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

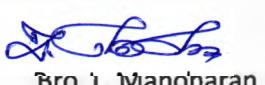
24. At the Regular Installation Meeting of the Lodge in November, every year, the Lodge shall elect two members to the Audit Committee, consisting of two members, not being any of the regular officers, to verify and audit the Annual Statement of Accounts prepared by the Treasurer under rule 129 of the Book of Constitutions of the Craft. It shall be the duty of the Committee to submit at the Installation Meeting an Audited Statement of Accounts of the previous year for the adoption by the Lodge.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

25. The Worshipful Commander Noah may, at his discretion, appoint a Special Committee for the consideration of any special subject or matter as may be assigned by him. Such a Committee shall comprise four members of whom two shall be Past Commanders of or in the Lodge besides the Scribe who will be the Ex-officio Secretary of the Special Committee. Three members shall constitute a quorum of any such committee.

  
W Bro. P. Srinivasan  
W. Commander

  
Bro. N.C. Prabhakar  
Senior Warden

  
Bro. L. Manoharan  
Junior Warden

  
Bro. S. Srikanth  
Scribe

## SUMMONS AND NOTICE

26. i. Summons or notice which is to be sent to any member shall be deemed sufficiently served, if sent through Electronic Mail to the address stated in the Membership Register. Every notice of exclusion or intended exclusion shall be sent through registered post with acknowledgment due to the Last known address of the member.
- ii. All changes of addresses shall be invariably notified to the Secretary in writing by members immediately when they occur.

## CONSTITUTIONS

27. In respect of matter not specifically and expressly provided for in the Bylaw, the Law and Regulations of the Grand Mark Lodge of India as embodied in the Book of Constitutions and Bylaws of the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India shall apply.

## DRESS REGULATIONS

28. The members of the Lodge will attend the meetings of the Lodge in Black or Dark Suit, Tie, White Shirt, Black Shoes and Black Socks.

## CEREMONIES

29. At every meeting, there shall be Masonic Education immediately after the ritual of the day.
30. At every meeting, the Lodge will observe "Moments of Contemplation" in the form of Five minute silence immediately after the Masonic Education.

## ALMS (CHARITY FUNDS)

31. a. Immediately before the closing of the Lodge, regular or emergency, the charity box shall be taken round as directed by the Commander in which the Brethren may deposit their freewill offerings.
- b. The amount thus collected shall be kept separate from the Lodge funds and appropriated to only such charitable purposes as the Brethren in Open Lodge may direct.

## BYLAWS

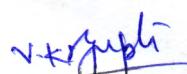
32. i) It shall not be competent for the brethren to abrogate, amend, add to or alter these Bylaws, unless the abrogation, amendment, addition or alteration, shall have been Proposed at one regular Meeting and Approved at the next Regular Meeting of the Lodge and approved by the R. W. the Regional Grand Mark Master of the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India and the M.W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.
- ii) In the event of any abrogation, amendment or revision of any Bylaw or Bylaws, the Secretary shall provide each Member with a copy thereof, after approval by the R. W. the Regional Grand Mark Master of the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India and the M.W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India.

  
W Bro. P. Srinivasan  
W. Commander

  
Bro. N.C. Prabhakar  
Senior Warden

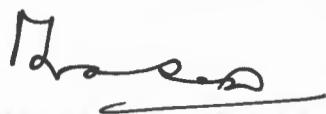
  
Bro. L. Manoharan  
Junior Warden

  
Bro. S. Srikanth  
Scribe

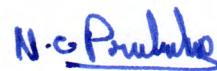
  
V.K. Srinivasan

iii) Every Member of the Lodge on his Advancement, or Joining shall be presented with a copy of these Bylaws and his acceptance thereof shall be deemed a pledge of his strict adherence and submission to the rules contained herein.

Adopted unanimously at the consecration and constitution of the Lodge on 12th August 2016 at Yercaud.



W Bro. Parthasarathy Srinivasan  
Worshipful Commander Noah



Bro. Nallan Chakaravarthy Prabhakar  
Senior Warden



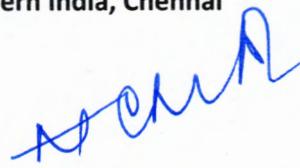
Bro. Lokanayakalu Manoharan  
Junior Warden



Bro. Sreedharan Srikanth  
Scribe

Approved by R. W. the Regional Grand Mark Master

of the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India, Chennai



R W Bro. Arvind Prasad Chitra  
Regional Grand Mark Master

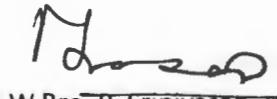
Place : Chennai  
Date : 17/9/2016

Approved by M. W. the Grand Master  
of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India, New Delhi

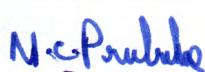


R W Bro. V.K. Gupta  
Grand Secretary

Place : NEW DELHI  
Date : 13.12.2016



W Bro. P. Srinivasan



Bro. N.C. Prabhakar



Bro. L. Mano'naran



Bro. S. Srikanth