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**Proposed Byelaws of
MARK LODGE VIZIARAM GAJAPATHI NO.139
VIZIANAGARAM**

BYE LAWS

Under the authority granted by the Grand Mark Lodge of India, ^{Meetings} under the name and style of MARK LODGE VIZIARAM GAJAPATHI shall be held at the Viziaram IV Memorial Masonic Temple, Near RTC Complex, Vizianagaram or such other places as decided by the Worshipful Master. ^{VKG-}

1. MEMBERSHIP :

The Members shall comprise only of four classes, namely Resident, Non-Resident, Life and Honorary.

Explanation 1 : Resident Members are those who ordinarily reside within the Municipal limits of the Town of Vizianagaram.

Explanation 2 : Non-Resident Members are those who ordinarily reside beyond the Municipal limits of the Town of Vizianagaram and placed on the list of Non-Resident Members as provided for in Bye Law No.3.

Explanation 3 : Life Members are those who choose to become as such by paying a lumpsum amount equal to ten years' Annual Subscription as on date payable to the Mark Lodge, provided they have been subscribing Members for 20 years continuously in this Mark Lodge and have also attained the age of 55 years. Also, if such a Member has multiple memberships in many Mark Lodges, he could become a Life Member in only one of the Mark Lodge of his choice. In all cases, membership in this category will be in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Board of General Purposes of Grand Lodge of India from time to time.

Explanation 4 : Honorary Members are those elected as such by the Mark Lodge in accordance with Rule 103 of the Book of Constitutions. ^{VKG-}

2. CONVERSION OF MEMBERSHIP FROM RESIDENT TO NON-RESIDENT STATUS :

Any Resident Member, who ceases to reside within the Municipal limits of the Town of Vizianagaram, may be placed on the list of Non-Resident Members on his application to the Secretary with effect from the English Calendar month following the month in which the application is received.

3. CONVERSION OF MEMBERSHIP FROM NON-RESIDENT TO RESIDENT STATUS :

Non-Resident Members residing within the Municipal limits of the Town of Vizianagaram for not less than three consecutive months shall be transferred to the list of Resident Members with effect from the first month after the month on which the three months period is completed.

4. CONVERSION OF MEMBERS FROM EITHER RESIDENT OR NONRESIDENT TO LIFE STATUS:

Both Resident and Non-Resident Members can opt to convert their membership status to that of Life Member by paying the prescribed Life Membership Fee, as under Bye Law No. 10 (e) and subject to the guidelines laid down by the Board of General Purposes of the Grand Lodge of India from time to time.

5. MEETINGS :

a) The Regular meetings of the Mark Lodge shall be held at the Viziaram IV Memorial Masonic Temple, Near R.T.C. Complex, Vizianagaram on the Second Tuesday in the months of January, April, July and October every year at such hour as may be directed by the WM & Wardens for each Meeting.

b) Emergency Meetings of the Mark Lodge may at any time be called by the authority of the WM, or by the other Wardens with the concurrence of the WM strictly in accordance with Regulation 90 of the ^{VKG-}

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Book of Mark Regulations of the Grand Mark Lodge of India. Any fee charged shall be to the account of the person / persons on whose behalf the Emergency Meeting is held. However the Standing Committee may, at its discretion, waive such recovery fee.

c) Summons convening the Regular / Emergency Meetings shall be despatched by the Secretary to all the members of the Mark Lodge atleast seven days before the date of such Meeting.

6. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION MEETINGS :

a) The W.Master shall be elected annually at the Regular Meeting of the Mark Lodge in October and shall be installed at the next Regular Meeting in January.

b) The Treasurer and the Tyler shall be elected and chosen respectively each year at the Regular Meeting of the Mark Lodge in October and invested as such at the Installation Meeting in January.

7. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS :

a) Candidates for Advancement, Joining or Re-Joining the Mark Lodge may be both proposed and seconded by subscribing members of the Mark Lodge. Such propositions may take place at Regular Meetings of the Mark Lodge or by notice in writing transmitted by the proposer to the Secretary atleast fourteen days before the Meeting. Such a proposal or proposals shall be included in the Summons for the Meeting at which the ballot is to take place giving full particulars of the candidate / candidates, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 10 of the Book of Mark Lodge Regulations of the Grand VKG Mark Lodge of India.

b) Candidates for Joining or Re-Joining not already registered in the books of the Grand Mark Lodge of India shall make the Declaration as provided in Regulation 100 of the Book of Mark Lodge Regulations of the Grand Mark Lodge of India.

c) Before the ballot for Advancement / Joining / Re-Joining is proceeded with, the Secretary of the Mark Lodge shall satisfy himself that he has taken care of the provisions of Regulations 98 to 100 of the VKG Book of Mark Lodge Regulations of the Grand Mark Lodge of India.

8. BALLOT :

Candidates shall be advanced or admitted as Joining or Re-Joining members of the Mark Lodge in accordance with and as per Regulation 101 of the Book of Mark Lodge Regulations of the Grand VKG Mark Lodge of India. In the event of an unfavourable ballot, the candidate shall not be re-proposed until after the lapse of six months from the date of first ballot.

9. VOTING :

In all cases where the votes of brethren for and against any proposition are equal, the WM presiding over the Meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

10. FEES AND SUBSCRIPTION :

a) FEE STRUCTURE:

The Fees payable to this Mark Lodge are as under and shall be payable in advance :

Advancement Fee for a member including Grand Mark Lodge Registry and Certificate - **Rs. 1850/-**
+ Cost of Apron

Rejoining, Joining fee for a brother under Grand Mark Lodge of India constitution - **Rs. 600/-**

Rejoining, Joining fee for a brother of the English or any other constitution - **Rs. 800/-**

Subscription per annum for members
(Excluding dues to RGML and GML) - **Rs. 150/-**

b) A candidate for Advancement, Joining or Re-Joining at any part of the year shall pay the full

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annual subscription together with the admission fees for Advancement, Joining or Re-Joining as the case may be.

- c) The above subscriptions shall be payable in advance each year.
- d) Honorary Members are not liable to pay any subscription fees.
- e) Upon becoming a Life Member, under the guidelines laid down by the Board of General Purposes from time to time, the Life Member shall pay a one-time Life Membership Fee equal to ten years' Annual Subscription payable to the Mark Lodge as on date. In addition to this, he shall continue to pay the Annual Dues to the Grand Mark Lodge of India and to the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India, as imposed by them from time to time. He shall not have to pay only the Annual Dues to the Mark Lodge thereafter, as long as he remains a Life Member of this Mark Lodge.
- f) If a Serving Brother is elected as a Tyler he may either be exempted from paying his regular Mark Lodge Subscription and / or he may be paid such remuneration for every Meeting he attends, as the Standing Committee may determine from time to time.

11. EXCLUSION :

If any Brother allows his subscription to be in arrears for ~~2~~ ³ year, the Secretary shall advise him of the amount due, by Registered Post, and if the full amount is not paid within thirty days from the date of receipt of such notice, he shall be liable to exclusion under Regulation ~~110~~ ¹¹⁰ of the Book of Mark Lodge Regulations of the Grand Mark Lodge of India. He may be re-admitted as a member again only on full payment of all arrears due from him, followed by regular proposition and ballot as prescribed in Regulation ~~101~~ ¹⁰¹ of the Book of Mark Lodge Regulations of the Grand Mark Lodge of India. VBC-

12. RESIGNATION :

Any brother wishing to resign from the Mark Lodge may notify the same verbally in open meeting, or by letter to the Secretary. Such Notice shall take effect from the date on which it is given, subject to all arrears due from the resigning brother upto the date of resignation. Any Brother who has resigned will be permitted to rejoin on payment of Re-joining Fees and any arrears due, but shall be subject to fresh ballot.

13. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS :

a) SECRETARY :

The Secretary shall conduct the entire general business and correspondence of the Mark Lodge. He shall keep record of the proceedings of the Regular and Emergency Meetings of the Mark Lodge in the Minutes Book and read the same at the next Regular Meeting of the Mark Lodge for confirmation. He shall maintain a separate book to record the Minutes of the Standing, Audit and Special Committees. He shall maintain a Membership Register and preserve all records, files, documents, etc. of the Mark Lodge. He shall also file all the Returns as prescribed in the General Regulations to the Grand Mark Lodge of India and the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India within the time stipulated for such Returns.

He shall be entrusted with a sum of Rs. 1,000.00 (Rupees One Thousand only) for contingent expenses for which he shall render accounts to the Treasurer periodically.

b) TREASURER :

He shall have charge of and be responsible for the money and accounts books of the Mark Lodge. He shall enter details of the money received, viz., subscriptions and other dues and of all payments made in the appropriate books of account. He shall deposit, without any delay, such sums of money as have been received, in an account standing in the name of the Mark Lodge with a Scheduled Bank duly operated by the resolution of the Mark Lodge. All cheques must be signed by any two of the following, viz. the WM or Secretary and the Treasurer.

All payments above the sum of Rs. 1000.00 (Rupees One Thousand only) shall generally be made by the authority of the Mark Lodge. He shall have authority to pay all routine expenses of the Mark Lodge.

including such as dues to the Grand Mark Lodge of India, the Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India, etc., as and when they fall due. But all other payments shall be made by the authority of the Mark Lodge..

At the Installation Meeting, the accounts of the Mark Lodge drawn upto the last date of September shall be presented, duly audited and certified by the Audit Committee. The Treasurer shall at every Regular Meeting submit and read in open Meeting the Statement of Accounts.

c) TYLER :

The Tyler shall prepare the Mark Lodge for the Meetings and see that every brother, whether a member or a visitor, is properly clothed before entering the Mark Lodge. He shall be in charge of the Warrant, Regalia, etc. of the Mark Lodge.

14. STANDING COMMITTEE :

There shall be a Standing Committee comprised of the W.M, Senior and Junior Wardens, the Immediate Past Master, the Secretary, the Master Overseer, the Treasurer, the Immediate Past Treasurer, the Director of Ceremonies and two Brethren elected at the Installation Meeting.

The duties of the Standing Committee shall be to consider the applications for Advancement of Candidates and of Mark Master Masons for Joining or Re-Joining, check the accounts of the Mark Lodge, make arrangements for the Meetings and the ceremonies thereof, consider all matters relating to the working of the Mark Lodge and report on matters leading to the improvement of the Mark Lodge. Five Members shall form a quorum.

15. AUDIT COMMITTEE :

There shall also be an Audit Committee of two members, who are not members of the Standing Committee, elected at the July Meeting. The Audit Committee shall verify and audit the Annual Statement of Accounts of the Mark Lodge and shall certify the correctness thereof before being circulated to all the members prior to the Installation Meeting.

16. SPECIAL COMMITTEE :

The WM may, at his discretion, appoint a Special Committee for the consideration of any special subject or matter. Such a Committee shall consist of atleast two members besides the Two Wardens, MO and the Secretary of the Mark Lodge. Three members shall form a quorum for the meeting of any such Committee.

17. PROPOSITIONS :

Every proposition for the consideration of the Mark Lodge shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another. No proposition shall be considered for balloting at a Meeting unless a notice of it has been given at the previous Meeting or forwarded in writing to the Secretart atleast fourteen days ahead for inclusion in the Summons before the Mark Lodge at which the proposition is to be considered. Any proposition made by the WM will need seconding.

18. PROPERTY :

Furniture, Regalia, the Mark Lodge and other properties of the Mark Lodge shall be vested in the care of the WM, Wardens. They shall record an inventory of such property in a Book of Inventory kept for that purpose and such inventory shall be presented at the Installation Meeting signed by the WM, Wardens. If they so desire, they may entrust the properties mentioned above to the Secretary for the proper care and custody on their behalf.

19. BYE LAWS :

The Bye Laws of the Mark Lodge shall be read atleast once in a year in an open Meeting. Every brother, on becoming a member of the Mark Lodge shall be presented with a copy of these Bye Laws. No

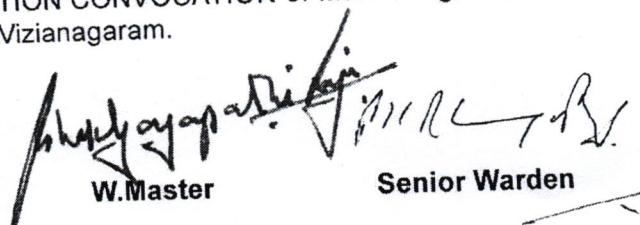
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alteration or addition to these Bye Laws may be made unless the same is duly proposed and seconded in an open Mark Lodge at a Regular Meeting, included in the agenda for the next Meeting at which the amendment or alteration shall be confirmed, and, then applied for due approval of Regional Grand Mark Master Lodge and the Grand Mark Lodge of India.

20. MISCELLANEOUS :

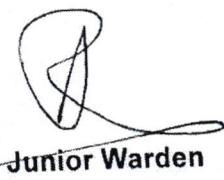
All matters not especially provided for by the Mark Lodge Regulations or by these Bye Laws shall be decided according to the Book of Constitutional Laws of ~~Mark~~ ^{VKG} Masonry.

CERTIFIED that these Bye Laws have been duly adopted at the CONSECRATION AND CONSTITUTION CONVOCATION of Mark Lodge Viziaram Gajapathi No. 139 held on 16th day of March 2014 at Vizianagaram.



W. Master

Senior Warden



Junior Warden



Secretary

Approved by R.W. the Regional Grand Mark Master

Place : Chennai

Date : 13.10.2015



REGIONAL GRAND MARK MASTER

Approved by M.W. the Grand Master

Place : NEW DELHI

Date : 15.12.2015



GRAND SECRETARY