

BYE-LAWS OF
The Bharathi Lodge
No. 161



WARRANTED
13th January 1963

CONSECRATED
7th February 1964

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The Bharathi Lodge**

No. 161

FIRST EDITION	1964
SECOND EDITION	1989
THIRD EDITION	1998
FOURTH EDITION	2003
FIFTH EDITION	2007



**WARRANTED
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BYE-LAWS OF
The Bharathi Lodge No. 161
Pondicherry

I. Members

1. The Members of the Lodge shall comprise of the following classes, viz:-

(a) Resident members, (b) Non-Resident Members, (c) Honorary Members.

Explanation 1. - Resident members are those who reside within 100 kilometers radius of Pondicherry.

Explanation 2. - Non-Resident members are those who reside beyond the said limit and apply, in writing, to the Secretary or express their desire in the open Lodge that they be brought in the non-resident list.

Explanation 3. - Honorary members are those who are elected, as such, for services rendered to Masonry in general or to this Lodge in particular.

2. Resident members shall be placed on the Non-resident list from the month following that in which the application to be brought in that list is made.

II. Days of Meetings

3. The regular Meeting of the Lodge shall be held at the Masonic Temple Pondicherry, on the last Saturday of every month at such hour as the Master may, from time to time, direct.

4. Summons for convening the Regular Meeting of the Lodge shall be issued at least seven days prior to such meeting.

5. No motion shall be made or discussed in the Lodge which is not mentioned in the summons, unless, in case of emergency, the Master directs otherwise.

6. No question, once decided in open Lodge, shall be raised again for a second time without the permission of the Master and until 3 months shall have elapsed after its last decision.

III. Subscriptions and Fees

7. The annual subscription of a resident member shall be Rs. 600/- and that of a non-resident member shall be Rs. 400/- and, in addition, all dues to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India, dues to the Grand Lodge of India and contribution to Lodge Stewards Fund @ Rs. 200/- each member shall be added and become due and payable on the first of every March.

8. The following shall be the fees payable in advance :

Initiation	1000/-
Joining	1000/-
Joining from other Constitutions	1000/-
Rejoining	1000/-

9. The expenses of any Emergency Meeting and Dispensation Fee, if any, due to the Regional Grand Lodge, shall be defrayed by the Brother or Brethren at whose instance the meeting is held or Dispensation obtained.

IV. Admission, Cessation and Resignation of Members

10. Candidate for initiation, joining or rejoining the Lodge shall be proposed and seconded during a regular meeting giving full particulars including date of birth, profession and residence. He shall be balloted and if favourable, initiated or admitted as joining or rejoining brother at next regular meeting. The candidate must have completed 21 years of age on the date of proposal. He may be proposed at completed 18 years. Before

admitting the candidate all dues must be paid and signature on the consent form obtained.

11. Any member, whose subscription for a period of 3 months or more remains unpaid, shall be liable to exclusion under the provisions of Rule 156 read with Rule 124 of the B of C and shall be deprived, while so in default, of the rights of voting, proposing or second candidates and being appointed or elected to any office. In any other case provision of Rule 124 will apply.

12. A member, who has resigned or has ceased to be a member or has been excluded for non-payment of dues, shall be permitted to rejoin only on payment of all previous arrears together with his rejoining fee, but shall be subjected to a fresh ballot.

V. Balloting and Voting

13. No candidate for freemasonry shall be initiated, and no Brother shall be admitted as a joining member of the Lodge if, on the ballot, 1/3rd of present vote against him. If the Master is of the opinion that a mistake might have occurred in the ballot, he may order for a second ballot to be taken forthwith, which shall be final. A candidate rejected for initiation or joining shall not be again proposed in the Lodge until after a lapse of six months from the date of the last ballot.

14. In cases of voting a proposal if votes of Brethren for and against any proposition are equal, the Ruling or officiating Master during the meeting shall have second or casting vote.

VI. Elections & Installation

15. The Master shall be elected at the Regular Meeting in January and shall be installed at the next Regular Meeting in February.

16. The Tyler & Treasurer shall be elected at the Regular Meeting in January and invested during installation meeting.

17. The Lodge Standing Committee, will consist of the Master, Immediate Past Master, Wardens, the Secretary, the Treasurer, Director of Ceremonies and two additional members elected during installation meeting.

VII. Properties of the Lodge

18. Building, Furniture, Regalia and other properties of the Lodge shall be vested in the care of the Worshipful Master of the Lodge. He shall record an inventory of such properties in a book and the outgoing Master shall present such inventory to newly Installed

Master at the Installation Meeting. If he so desires he may entrust the above-mentioned properties to the Secretary for care and custody on his behalf.

VIII. Standing Committee

19. The duties of the Standing Committee of the Lodge, shall be to enquire about and report candidates for initiation and joining, to examine the Secretary's books and check the Treasurer's accounts, to inspect and check all the property of the Lodge, at least once a year and to submit at the Regular Meeting in February, before the Installation of the Master-elect, an Annual Report, the financial condition and general questions affecting the Lodge during the period under review.

IX. Audit Committee

20. The Lodge shall have an Audit committee consisting of two members who are not members of the permanent committee and who are elected during Regular Installation Meeting. The committee shall verify and audit the Annual Statement of Accounts of the Lodge and shall certify the correctness thereof before being circulated to all the members prior to Installation.

X. Secretary

21. The Secretary of the Lodge shall be exofficio Secretary to all Committees appointed by the Lodge.

22. All letters from members of the Lodge shall be addressed to the Secretary.

23. The Secretary shall conduct all the general business and look after all the correspondence of the Lodge. He shall issue summons for or notices of all meetings of the Lodge or Committees, record minutes of their proceedings and keep the register of members and all other registers and records, except the accounts which will be kept by the Treasurer. He shall carefully preserve all books and records, and keep a register of all moneys passing through his hands. He shall, immediately, if they are due, prepare the Returns for the Grand and Regional Grand Lodges and forward them, together with all fees and contributions due thereon, to the authorities concerned.

XI. Treasurer

24. The Treasurer shall have charge of and be responsible for the money and the account books of the Lodge. He shall receive direct all moneys due to or

held for the Lodge and deposit the same in the name of the Lodge at a bank approved by a resolution of the Lodge and shall make payments for current ordinary expenses on the authority of the Master or other Officer-in-charge of the Lodge. All payments shall be made by cheques. Any two of the Treasurer, Master and Secretary shall operate the Bank Account on behalf of the Lodge. He shall submit the lodge accounts at the Regular Meetings of the Lodge. He shall be given imprest cash not exceeding Rs. 2000-00 for defraying contingent expenses, postage etc., of the Lodge.

25. The accounts of the Lodge shall be maintained under the following distinct and separate heads :

1. General Bank Account : This shall be maintained under the following subheads and a sum of Rs. 200/- per year shall be collected from each brother and shown in Steward's Fund. A) General Fund, B) Steward fund
2. Charity Bank Account
3. Building Bank Account

26. A sum of 2000-00 from the General Fund of the Lodge, shall be annually placed at the disposal of the Master to meet emergent cases of distress. In case, the Master exercises this privilege, he shall report the circumstances at the next Regular Meeting of the Lodge; otherwise the sum shall at the close of the year, be carried over to the Charity Account.

27. All ordinary cases of distress shall be submitted for discussion in open Lodge.

XII. Bye Laws

28 The Bye Laws of the Lodge shall be read at each regular meeting of the Lodge. Every Initiate, on becoming the member of the Lodge, shall be presented with a copy of these Bye Laws. It shall not be competent for the Brethern to abrogate, amend or alter these Byelaws unless the abrogation, amendment or alteration shall have been duly proposed and passed at one Regular Meeting, after insertion in the summons, and read and confirmed at the next Regular Meeting; but no such amendment or alteration shall come into force until the same is approved by the Regional Grand Master and the Grand Master.

NOTE

Original Bye-laws

Approved in open Lodge on 7th February, 1964

(Sd.) A. T. KATHIRESAN
Wor. Master

(Sd.) R. RAMACHANDRAN
Senior Warden

(Sd.) K.G. VEERARAGHAVAN
Junior Warden

(Sd.) R. SADASIVAN
Secretary

Approved by me on 10th February, 1964

S.T. SRINIVASA GOPALACHARI
Regional Grand Master

Approved by
M.W. Grand Master on 18th February, 1964

(Sd.) P.M. SUNDARAM
Grand Secretary

Amendments to Bye-laws : 2 & 3, 8, 10, 23

Confirmed at the Regular Meeting
held on 23-12-1967

(Sd.) A. C. PATEL
Worshipful Master

(Sd.) R.K. SELVARAJ
Senior Warden

(Sd.) A.C. SHAH
Junior Warden

(Sd.) C.K. PATEL
Secretary

Approved by RW the Regional Grand Master

Madras
23-1-1968

(Sd.) C.A. RAMAKRISHNAN
Regional Grand Master

Approved by the M.W. The Grand Master

New Delhi
30-1-1968

(Sd.) P.M. SUNDARAM
Grand Secretary

Amendments to Bye-laws : 5 & 23 (ii)

Confirmed at the Regular Meeting
held on 27-9-1969

(Sd.) A. C. SHAH
Worshipful Master

(Sd.) T.E. VARADHAN
Senior Warden

(Sd.) K.T.R. LAKSHMINARAYANAN
Junior Warden

(Sd.) B.P. SONTALIA
Secretary

Approved by R.W. The Regional Grand Master

Madras
16-10-1969

(Sd.) C.A. RAMAKRISHNAN
Regional Grand Secretary

Approved by the M.W. The Grand Master

New Delhi
22-10-1969

(Sd.) P.M. SUNDARAM
Grand Secretary

Amendments to Bye-laws : 5 & 23 (i), 23 (ii) & 24

Confirmed at the Regular Meeting
held on 30th May, 1987

(Sd.) G. DORAIRAJALU
Worshipful Master

(Sd.) V.T.D. MOHAN
Senior Warden

(Sd.) M.K. KHAN
Junior Warden

(Sd.) KERAN JOHN
Secretary

Approved by R.W. The Regional Grand Master

Place : Madras
Date : 30-7-1987

(Sd.) V. RAJENDRAN
Regional Grand Master

Approved by the M.W. The Grand Master

New Delhi
2-12-1987

(Sd.) H. P. GUPTA
Grand Secretary

Amendments to Bye-laws : 6

Confirmed at the Regular Meeting
held on 25th December, 1987

(Sd.) G. DORAIRAJALU
Worshipful Master

(Sd.) V.T.D. MOHAN
Senior Warden

(Sd.) M.K. KHAN
Junior Warden

(Sd.) KERAN JOHN
Secretary

Approved by R.W. The Regional Grand Master

Place : Madras
Date : 9-1-1988

(Sd.) V. RAJENDRAN
Regional Grand Master

Approved by the M.W. The Grand Master

New Delhi
30-1-1988

(Sd.) H. P. GUPTA
Grand Secretary

Amendments to Bye-laws : 3, 5, 6

Confirmed at the Regular Meeting
held on 29th June, 1996

(Sd.) W. Bro. S. GOPALAKRISHNAN
Worshipful Master

(Sd.) Bro. K. VAIDYANATHAN
Senior Warden

(Sd.) Bro. S. VEERAPPAN
Junior Warden

(Sd.) W. Bro. Dr. K.P. SINGH
Secretary

Approved by R.W. The Regional Grand Master

Place : Trivandrum
Date : 17-7-1996

(Sd.) K.R. RAJASEKHRAN
NAYAR,
Regional Grand Master

Approved by the M.W. The Grand Master

New Delhi
7-9-1996

(Sd.) N.L. DUGGLA
Grand Secretary

Amendments to Bye-laws : 12, 13, 17, 18, 23(i), 24

Confirmed at the Regular Meeting
held on 29th June, 2002

(Sd.) W. Bro. AJAY VIRMANI
Worshipful Master

(Sd.) Bro. V. GNANASAMBANDAM
Senior Warden

(Sd.) Bro. GEORGE K. MANI
Junior Warden

(Sd.) W. Bro. SUESH CHUDIWALA
Secretary

Approved by R.W. The Regional Grand Master

Place : Chennai. (Sd.) Dr. B. Biswakumar
Date : 16-9-2002 Regional Grand Master

Approved by the M.W. The Grand Master

New Delhi (Sd.) HARISH GUPTA
5-10-2002 Grand Secretary

Amendments to Bye-laws : 17, 24, 25, 26

Proposed 30-12-2006, Passed 10.2.2007,
Confirmed 3.3.2007

(Sd.) W.Bro. V. JAYARAM
Worshipful Master

(Sd.) Bro. Dr. DINUKUMAR ARTHUR
Senior Warden

(Sd.) Bro. G.E. SATHEESH
Junior Warden

(Sd.) W.Bro. Dr. K.P. SINGH
Secretary

Approved by R.W. The Regional Grand Master

Chennai (Sd.) R.W.Bro. G.K. Selvarajan
Date : 28-8-2007 Regional Grand Master

Approved by M.W. The Grand Master

New Delhi (Sd.) R.W. Bro. S. Krishnan
Date : 05-09-2007 Grand Secretary