

THE COORG LODGE NO. 55

No. 2576 EC
WARRANT
13-05-1895

CONSECRATED
18-7-1895

G.L.I. FOUNDER MEMBER
24-11-1961



BYE - LAWS

Freemason's Hall,
Madikeri - 571 201,
Kodagu.

Teresian, Virajpet

BYE-LAWS OF THE COORG LODGE NO. 55 G.L.I PREAMBLE

WHEREAS it is expedient to frame Bye-laws for the Government of Lodge "Coorg" G.L.I. 55, established in Coorg, under The Warrants of Constitutions of The Grand Lodge of England dated the Thirteenth Day of May, 1895 and under The Warrant of The Grand Lodge of India dated the Twenty Fourth Day of November, 1961, as a Founder Member of the Grand Lodge India, appended here to and accordingly framed as follows:-

1. NAME:

The name of The Lodge shall be "The Coorg Lodge" No. 55, on the Rolls of The Grand Lodge of India.

2. MEMBERS:

This Lodge shall consist of Subscribing and Honorary Members.

3. HONORARY MEMBERS:

Honorary Members are those members who are elected as such by The Lodge in accordance to Rule 142 of The B of C. Honorary Members shall pay no admission fees or contributions of any kind, but are not entitled to any of the privileges of subscribing Members, and are ineligible to hold office or to vote.

They shall also adopt measures to recover all arrears due from members and report the names of all members who may be in arrears for more than three months.

(iii) They shall consider the qualifications of all candidates proposed for Initiation and/of brethren for membership.

7. 'AUDIT COMMITTEE:

An Audit committee consisting of Three Past Masters will be elected at The Regular Meeting held in September. Two members shall form a quorum. The committee shall verify and audit The Annual Statement of Accounts prepared by The Treasurer under Rule 129 of The Book of Constitutions. It shall be the duty of the committee to submit at The Installation meeting in October an Annual Report on the financial position of The Lodge the working of The Lodge, and the annual returns submitted by The Lodge. They shall report to the Permanent Committee.

8. THE TREASURER:

He shall be in charge of and responsible for the money and account books of The Lodge.

Duties of The Treasurer:

a) The Treasures shall not pay any monies without direction from the W.M. or the brethren assembled in open lodge except fixed monthly charges such as Grand Lodge and Regional Grand Lodge dues, Rents, Salaries, Electricity, Festive Board, Printing & Postage and contingencies.

(b) All monies due to or held for the Lodge shall be paid or remitted to the Treasurer directly, who shall without undue delay deposit the same in an account in the name of the Lodge at the scheduled Bank, approved by the Resolution of the Lodge.

(c) All cheques must be signed by any two of the following, The Worshipful Master, The Secretary and The Treasurer

(d) The Treasurer shall regularly enter a complete record of all monies passing through his hands in the proper books of accounts as are necessary under Rule 129 of The book of Constitution.

(e) The Treasurer shall prepare a statement of accounts annually made up as on the date of regular meeting of September of each year showing the exact financial position of the Lodge and submit the same to the Audit Committee by the 20th of September every year.

(f) The Treasurer shall, at every Regular Meeting, submit and read in open Lodge, a monthly statement of accounts.

(g) The Treasurer shall intimate to the Secretary all cases of arrears falling under Bye law No 14 (d) & 14(e) and Rule 124 & 156 of The book of Constitution.

9. THE SECRETARY

Duties of the Secretary

a) The Secretary shall keep a list of members according to the form laid down by The Regional Grand

4. MEETINGS:

a) Place of Regular Meetings:

The Lodge meetings shall be held in The Free Masons Hall, Madikeri.

b) The Regular Meetings of The Lodge shall be held on The Second Tuesday of the month except in the months of June, July and August. At such convenient hours as shall be entered in the summons.

c) Emergent Meetings:

An Emergent Meeting of The Lodge may be summoned by The Worshipful Master strictly in accordance with Rule 116 of The Book of Constitution any fee charged shall be to the account of the person / persons on whose behalf the Emergency Meeting was held. However the Permanent Committee may at its discretion, waive such recovery of fee. The reason for convening such a meeting shall be stated in the summons and no other business shall be transacted at such a meeting other than mentioned in the summons.

d) Lodge of Instruction:

There shall also be Instruction Meetings in accordance with the Rule 107, 108 & 109 of The Book of Constitution on the nearest Monday to the first of each month at the discretion of The Master.

5. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF THE MASTER, THE TREASURER AND THE TYLER

The Master and The Treasurer shall be elected by ballot, and the Tyler by show of hands, at The Regular Meeting in September. At The Regular Meeting in October, after the minutes of the regular meeting held in September are confirmed, The Master shall be duly Installed in The Eastern Chair according to ancient usage. After The Installation of The Master he shall appoint his Wardens and other Officers.

6. THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE:

a) The Permanent Committee shall consist of The Master, Wardens, and Past Masters of the Lodge; the Secretary and Treasurer attending ex-officio. Seven members shall form a quorum. The Master shall preside over this committee. In his absence the I.P.M. and in his absence the senior most member on the rolls of The Lodge will preside over this committee.

b) Duties of The Permanent Committee

(i) They shall consider the report of The Audit Committee on all accounts connected with the Lodge, as well as report on all such accounts, and upon all application for relief, and transact such other business as may be delegated to them by The Lodge.

at any part of the year shall pay the full subscription together with the admission fees as the case may be.

13. FEES TO BE PAID FOR INITIATION & JOINING

a) The Fees to be paid for Initiation and Joining shall be as follows:-

i) Initiation	Rs. 1,000-00
ii) Joining / Rejoining	Rs. 1,000-00
iii) Joining from a recognised Constitution	Rs. 1,000-00

b) In addition Fees of Initiation, Joining/Re-Joining payable to The Grand Lodge & The Regional Grand Lodge and cost of certificates, as may be fixed by them from time to time.

c) All fees for Initiation shall be paid before Initiation.

14. ADMISSION AND RETIREMENT OF MEMBERS:

a) No person shall be made a Freemason in or admitted a member of The Lodge unless in on ballot two thirds of the members present and voting in The Lodge approve the proposal for such a candidate under Rule 140 of the Book of Constitution.

b) No unsuccessful candidate or brother shall be again proposed for Initiation until the expiration of six months.

c) No Brother shall be admitted a member of the Lodge without the production of Grand Lodge Certificate and the certificate required by Rule 149 of Book of Constitution from his former Lodge.

d) Any member more than one quarter in arrears dues to The Lodge shall be ineligible to be appointed to any office of The Lodge, or to propose a candidate for Initiation or a Brother for Joining.

e) Exclusions:

Any member whose dues shall remain in arrears for twelve months shall be ceased in accordance with Rule 124 of the Book of Constitutions, and his name reported to The Regional Grand Secretary and Grand Secretary. If he should wish to rejoin he must again be duly proposed, seconded and balloted for, and pay the joining fees and all arrears in accordance with Rule 138 of the Book of Constitution.

f) Resignation:

Any members desirous of resigning his membership of The Lodge may tender his resignation in writing or personally in open Lodge. He shall be entitled to a certificate under Rule 150 of The Book of Constitution; subject to all arrears due from the resining member upto date of resignation. The resignation takes effect in accordance with Rule 158 of the Book of Constitution. Any members who has resigned will be permitted to rejoin subject to a fresh ballot and on payment of rejoining fees, and any arrears due.

BALLOTING

15. In all cases of voting by ballot, the ballot shall commence with the junior member and end with The Worshipful Master. The ballot box shall be placed on a suitable table in the centre of the Lodge; and on the

Lodge. He shall issue summonses for, and record the minutes of all meetings and committees of The Lodge, read at meetings the minutes of the preceding meetings for confirmation, receive all petitions and memorials etc., and lay them before The Master. He is to take particular care of records of The Lodge, and see that the several documents issued by him are in due and proper form.

b) The Secretary, 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 Lodge and sign the same. Countersigned by The Master and Immediate Past Master, he shall place the same before the Permanent Committee for inspection and information.

c) He shall also keep in safe custody all documents, records and take charge of The Lodge Seal.

d) All summonses shall be circulated by the Secretary at least seven days previous to the meeting.

e) The Secretary shall in each summons notify to every member the amount of his indebtedness to the Lodge.

f) The Secretary shall take note of members coming within the provision of Bye-law 14(d) & 14(c) and Rule 124 & 156 of the Book of Constitutions. He will report to the Lodge and take necessary steps to enforce the above provisions.

10. THE TYLER:

a) Duties of the Tyler:

The Tyler shall prepare the Lodge for the Meeting and see that every Brother, whether a member or visitor, is properly clothed, prior to admission into The Lodge.

b) The Tyler shall be paid a fixed remuneration as decided by The Lodge.

11. THE STEWARDS:

They shall assist The Tyler in preparing The Lodge for the meetings, and assist The Asst. Secretary in maintaining and storing the Regalia & Property of The Lodge after the meetings. They shall arrange the Festive Board.

12. FEES AND SUBSCRIPTION:

a) The members shall pay their Annual subscription in the month of November every year at the following rates.

i)	Subscription	Rs. 500-00
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b) In addition such annual dues payable to The Grand Lodge of India as may be fixed from time to time.

c) In addition such annual dues payable to The Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India as may be fixed from time to time.

d) A candidate for Initiation, Joining / Re-Joining

belonging to it, whereby injury is done or intended to be done, to the character of any of its members, his conduct shall be referred to the consideration of a Committee appointed for the purpose.

d) The Master shall invariably be addressed by the title of "Worshipful" and every member by the Masonic appellation of "Brother" with the addition of their respective designations to the officers of the Lodge.

e) No Brother shall be permitted to quit The Lodge until it shall have been closed for the evening, without leave asked and obtained from The Master.

f) If any Brother behave in such a manner as to disturb the harmony of The Lodge, he shall thrice be formally admonished by The Master; and if he persists in his irregular conduct he shall be punished by censure or exclusion, as The Lodge may seem fit; or the case may be reported to higher Masonic authority.

19. Bye-Laws

a) Every proposition for a new Bye-law or for the amendment of existing ones shall be in writing and signed by the proposer and seconder thereof. It shall then be read in open Lodge and the Secretary directed to give notice to the members in the summons for the next regular meeting that the motion will be brought forward for discussion at the meeting and approved of and confirmed at the next regular meeting.

b) Every proceeding under the above article after

adoption by the Lodge, shall be reported to The Regional Grand Master, and shall not come into effect until after his approval and final confirmation by The M.W. Grand Master.

c) Every member of The Lodge, on his Initiation or Joining shall be presented with a copy of these Bye-Laws and his acceptance thereof shall be deemed a pledge of his strict adherence and submission to the rules contained therein.

20. Property of the Lodge:

The Furniture, Regalia, The Warrant and the other properties of The Lodge shall be vested in the care of the Master and his Wardens. An Inventory of such property shall be recorded by them in a book kept for that purpose and such an Inventory shall be presented at the Installation meeting signed by The Master. If they so desire they may entrust the properties mentioned above to The Secretary for the proper care and custody. The Asst. Secretary assisted by the Stewards shall take care to see that the Furniture, Regalia & Warrants are stored properly in their cupboards.

21. VISITORS:

a) No Visitor shall be admitted into The Lodge unless he be personally known, recommended, or well vouched for after due examination by one of the present Brethren as provided in Rule 104 of the The Book of Constitution and during his continuance in The Lodge must be subject

Secretary calling out the names of each brother according to the order mentioned in the preceding clause, he shall advance to the table and after saluting the Worshipful Master, deposit his ballot and return to his seat.

VOTES

16.(a) All matters relating to the affairs of the Lodge shall be decided by a majority of votes unless otherwise provided by the Book of Constitution, each member having one vote.

Whenever it may happen that the number of votes is equal, on any question to be decided by a majority The Master in the chair shall be entitled to give a second or casting vote, excepting upon a ballot for candidate for Initiation or a Brother to join. The votes are to be counted by the Senior Deacon and reported to The Master.

b) No member shall on any account disclose out of The Lodge his own or the vote of any Brother, nor shall a visiting Brother do so under pain of being never admitted again.

17. PROPOSITIONS:

a) 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 Secretary not less than 14 days before the Meeting at which such proposition is to be considered. The said motion shall be included in the summons:

Provided the Master shall have the power to enable any urgent proposition of importance to be raised and put to the vote of The Lodge.

b) A motion may be opposed either by dissenting from it or proposing an amendment, which being seconded must be disposed of first, by being put to the vote. If it be lost, other amendments may follow; but should not other be made the original motion is to be submitted.

c) No member shall disclose the discussion of The Lodge to Brethren who are not members thereof, under pain of censure or exclusion.

d) No question once decided shall be raised again without the permission of The Master or until 6 months have elapsed.

18. Masonic Discipline

a) At the first stroke of The Master's gavel or whenever he shall call to order, there shall be a general silence. All members shall keep their seat during the communication, except the Deacons, who are allowed to move about from place to place in discharge of their duties.

b) Any brother requiring to speak, shall rise and remain standing, addressing himself to The Master. No Brother whatsoever is to interrupt The Master whilst speaking, or a Brother when addressing The Master in the Chair.

c) If any Brother is found guilty or reporting out of The Lodge any of its transactions, or that of any individual

Approved By. The R.W. The Regional Grand Master

Place : Chennai

Date : 02/03/2004

B. Biswakumar
R.W. Bro. Dr. B. Biswakumar
R.W. The Regional Grand
Master of Southern India.

Approved By The M.W. The Grand Master of India

Place : New Delhi

Date : 6.3.2004

Harish Gupta
W.Bro. Dr. Harish Gupta
Grand Secretary.

Amendments

to the Bye-laws of the same. The Master is bound to enforce this rule.

No Visitor shall be allowed to remain in Lodge while any matter concerning any member or members of The Lodge is being disposed of and it shall be the duty of The Master to ask the visitor to retire from The Lodge during the business.

b) No Visitor shall be entitled to speak or vote on any motion. He may address The Lodge on a point connected and The Craft in general with the sanction first obtained of The Master or Officer in charge of The Lodge.

22. CHARITY:

a) A Charity Box devoted solely to charitable purpose, is supported by voluntary contributions, each member will, therefore, contribute according to his means.

b) The Charity Box shall be circulated before closing The Lodge at the regular meetings. The sum collected shall be declared to the Brethren by The Secretary/ The Treasurer and the amount credited to The Benevolent Fund (Charity Fund)

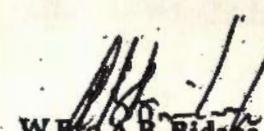
23. GENERAL:

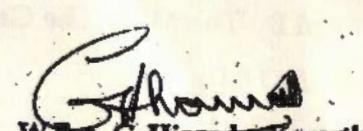
a) All matters not especially provided for by these Bye-laws shall be decided according to the General Constitutional Laws of Craft Masonry.

BYE-LAW COMMITTEE

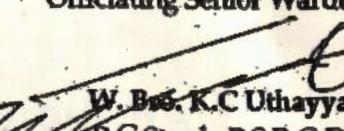
1. W.Bro. A..B. Bidapa - W. Master
2. W. Bro. K.C. Uthayya - Secretary
P.G.Stwd., P.S.R.G.D.
3. W. Bro. D.V. Vishwanath.
P.R.G.I.G.

Read and approved in Open Lodge on
18th February 2003.


W.Bro. A.B. Bidapa.
Worshipful Master

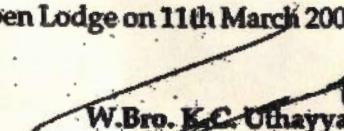

W.Bro. G. Hirendra Kamath
P.S.R.G.D.
Officiating Senior Warden


Bro. K.P. Ranjith.
Junior Warden


W.Bro. K.C. Uthayya
P.G.Stwd., P.S.R.G.D
Secretary

Read and confirmed in Open Lodge on 11th March 2003.


W.Bro. A.B. Bidapa.
Worshipful Master


W.Bro. K.C. Uthayya
Secretary