



**BYE LAWS OF
THE MOUNT LODGE NO. 14**

(AS APPROVED BY
M.W. THE GRAND MASTER - INCORPORATING
AMENDMENTS UPTO 7TH OF MARCH, 2003)



UPDATED AS SUCH 1ST OF NOVEMBER, 2006



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CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP :

1. The members of the Lodge shall comprise of three classes, namely Resident, Non-Resident and Honorary.
 - A) Resident Member is one who ordinarily resides within the Postal division of Chennai.
 - B) Non-resident member is one who ordinarily resides beyond and outside the Postal divisions of Chennai and placed on the list of Non-resident members.
 - C) Honorary member is one elected as such by the Lodge in accordance with Rule 142 of the Book of Constitution.

DAY AND PLACE OF MEETINGS :

2. The Regular Meetings of the Lodge shall be held at Free Mason's Hall, 14, Ethiraj Salai, Chennai - 600 008 on the First Saturday of every month at such hour as may be directed by the Master from time to time.
3. All Brethern must sign the Attendance Register and are requested to see that the visiting Brethern who are introduced by them also sign.

ADMISSION :

4. All applications for initiation or joining or rejoining shall be deposited, duly filled in with the Secretary atleast two weeks before the Meeting at which the candidate is to be proposed or seconded.

The Brother who proposes the candidate shall ensure that the prescribed fees are paid to the Treasurer simultaneously.

5. No person shall be considered for being admitted as a Member of the Lodge unless until the Enquiry Committee of the Lodge has considered and reported upon the character, qualifications, circumstances and social standing of the candidates proposed for membership.

ENQUIRY COMMITTEE :

6. The Lodge shall elect at the Installation Meeting an Enquiry Committee consisting of not more than five brethren including the Master and the Secretary for the purpose of considering and reporting to the Lodge upon the character, qualification circumstances and social standing of the candidate proposed for Membership of the Lodge.

NOTE : Should there be any objection to the introduction of a Candidate for initiation, or a Brother for joining, it is recommended that such objection be mentioned privately to the Master or Secretary who may communicate with the proposer and give him the opportunity of withdrawing his Candidate.

BALLOT :

7. If at a ballot in respect of a candidate for initiation or joining or rejoining two black balls appear against him he shall be deemed to have been rejected and result shall be notified to him

through the Brother proposing him and the fees if any paid shall be returned at the time information is furnished.

8. If a candidate for initiation is not within a year after the date of the ballot at which he was elected, his election shall be void.
9. A candidate for initiation, Joining or Rejoining may, if rejected at a ballot be proposed again after the lapse of three months from the date of the ballot.

FEES FOR INITIATION, JOINING & REJOINING :

10. The following shall be the scale of fees :	
For Initiation	Rs. 1,200.00
Joining from a Lodge under the GLI	Rs. 800.00
Joining from a Lodge under other constitution	Rs. 800.00
Rejoining Fee	Rs. 500.00
Steward Fee	Rs. 100.00

The above fees are payable in advance for initiation or joining or rejoining.

SUBSCRIPTION :

11. The Subscription payable shall be as follows :

Resident Members	:	Rs. 600.00 per annum
	or :	Rs. 150.00 per quarter
Non Resident Members	:	Rs. 300.00 per annum
	or :	Rs. 75.00 per quarter
Honorary Members	:	NIL
Project Fund	:	Rs. 100.00 per annum
Mount Lodge Charitable	:	Rs. 100.00 per annum
Trust	:	Rs. 100.00 per annum

Plus the annual due to the Grand Lodge and the quarterages to the Regional Grand Lodge on prevailing rates in the respective years and other levies prescribed by the Grand Lodge from time to time. Subscription shall be payable in advance.

Any member whose subscription remains unpaid for three months in the case of Resident and six months in the case of non-resident Member, after it has become due shall be deprived while so in default of being appointed or elected to offices and of the right to vote on any question or proposition brought before the Lodge and he shall be further liable for exclusion in accordance with the provision contained in Rule 156 of the Book of Constitution.

HONORARY MEMBER :

12. The Lodge may elect as Honorary Member in accordance with Rule 151 of the Book of Constitution any brother of good standing whom it may consider worthy of such distinction by reason of his service to the Craft or to the Mount Lodge, and who is or has, within the previous year been a subscribing member of a regular (daughter) Lodge.

NON RESIDENT MEMBER :

13. Any Member ceasing to reside in the District or practice his trade or profession in the City of Chennai may give notice of the fact to the Secretary in writing. In the absence of such notice and until such a notice is given he shall be treated as a resident member.

DUTIES OF TREASURER :

14. The treasurer shall receive all monies payable to the Lodge and made all necessary disbursements under the immediate orders of the Master or the officer in the charge of the Lodge. The Treasurer shall keep a book in which the same shall be regularly entered and which shall be open for the inspection of the subscribing members at every monthly meeting of the Permanent Committee a statement of sums due to the Lodge.

- 14A. 1. The financial year of the Lodge shall be 1st October of each year to 30th September of the following year, effective 2001.

2. For the year 2000-2001 the Accounts will be made up for the 11 months 1st November 2000 to 30th September 2001.

15. The monies of the Lodge shall be held under the following heads.

- a) General Fund
- b) Charity Fund
- c) Steward Fund
- d) Activity Fund

- The Lodge may by resolution constitute such other funds as may be necessary for specific purposes.

16. The Funds of the Lodge shall be deposited in the name of the Lodge in any Bank approved by the Lodge. The account shall be operated upon by the Treasurer and the Master jointly.

AUDIT COMMITTEE :

17. The Audit Committee shall consist of three members of the Lodge who shall be elected by the Lodge annually at the installation meeting in November. The Committee shall audit the annual accounts of all Funds of the Lodge made up to the end of SEPTEMBER and present the same to the Members for their consideration at the regular meeting in NOVEMBER.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE :

18. (1) The Master, Present Wardens, Secretary Immediate Past Master, Director of Ceremonies, Treasurer, Past Secretary and 3 members elected at the installation Meeting shall constitute the Permanent Committee and shall make all arrangements for meetings consider all matters connected with the welfare of the Lodge and shall audit accounts of the Lodge. They shall report quarterly on the state of the Funds and annually take stock of the jewels, furniture's and other property of the Lodge and submit a report of the same to the Lodge.
- (2) The Permanent Committee shall submit a report at the Installation meeting in November, its annual report on the working and conditions of the Lodge along with the report of the Audit Committee and statement of accounts for the consideration of the Lodge.

DUTIES OF TYLER :

19. (1) The Tyler shall prepare the Lodge for the meeting and see that every Brother whether Member or visitor, is properly clothed previous to admission into the Lodge.
- (2) The Tyler shall also be in charge of the collars, Aprons etc belonging to that Lodge.
- (3) He shall receive for proper discharge of his duties a sum of more than Rs. 75 for every meeting of such other remuneration as the Lodge may vote from time to time.
- (4) If a subscribing member is elected or officiates as Tyler of the Lodge he shall not be entitled to any such remuneration.
- (5) The Tyler elected or officiate shall be exempted from payment of dinner charges.

EMERGENCY MEETINGS :

20. In case an Emergency Meeting is held, for the sole purpose of conferring a degree at the request of and for the convenience of a candidate, or candidates all expenses incurring Dispensation Fees, towards conduct of such meeting, shall be defrayed by the candidate or candidates.

MASTER'S IMPREST :

21. A Sum of Rupees Two hundred (Rs. 200) shall be placed at the disposal of the Master for Charitable purposes during the tenure of his office. For all amounts over that sum, the sanction of the Lodge shall be obtained. The Master will report any reliefs at the next regular meeting and at the end of the

year, the balance, if any, will be carried to the charity account.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION :

22. (1) The Master and the Tyler shall be elected by ballot at the Regular Meeting in October and the Master Elected shall be installed at the Regular Meeting in November.
- (2) The Treasurer and Tyler shall be elected at the Regular Meeting of the Lodge in October.

MISCELLANEOUS :

23. Any member desirous of resigning his membership of the Lodge shall signify the same in open Lodge or to the Secretary in writing. Such resignation shall take effect in accordance with Rule 157 of the Book of Constitutions and the Brother shall be granted a certificate, when requested, as provided by Rule 149 of the Book of Constitutions. The Brother shall not be readmitted without being regularly proposed, seconded and balloted for as a rejoining member in accordance with Rule 137 of the Book of Constitutions.
24. No Visitor may be admitted into the Lodge without the permission of the Master. Brethren bringing visitors must introduce them to the Master and vouch for their being Masons. Other visitors shall be examined by such officers as the Master may choose at the time, before he is admitted.

25. If any visitor should disclose what passes on in the Lodge, he shall not be allowed to visit it again, and shall be reported to his own Lodge for so doing.

26. The Warrants, Jewels, and the Working Tools belonging to the Lodge shall be in charge of the Master.

27. A Brother desirous of speaking on any matter or question under consideration shall rise in his place and address the Master. Except with the permission of the Master, no Brother, shall speak more than once on the same matter or question but a Brother who has moved a proposition may speak a second time by way of reply.

28. No proposition or motion of any kind shall be considered valid unless properly seconded. The propositions shall be considered according to priority of the proposals.

29. All ordinary cases of distress shall be presented by any Brother duly attested by him to the Secretary of the Lodge at least 15 days before the Regular Meeting and the Secretary shall place it before the Permanent Committee at its next regular monthly meeting.

30. The Bye-Laws shall be read in open Lodge once every year and at such other time as the Master may think proper. They shall be printed and every member of the Lodge shall be supplied with a copy free of cost.

31. No alteration in the Bye-Laws or addition thereto shall take place without the sanction of at least two-thirds of the members entitled to vote, then present in the Lodge and any Brother wishing to propose an alteration of, or an addition to the Bye-Laws shall give notice in writing to that effect one meeting previous to that at which the proposition is to be taken into consideration, notice of such proposition being inserted in the Summons convening the meeting. It shall be considered at that meeting in the Summons, and if approved shall be submitted for confirmation at the Next Regular Meeting but, shall not become effective until finally approved by the R.W. The Regional Grand Master and M.W. The Grand Master.

