



BYE-LAWS
of
Lodge Harmony
No. 217
CHENNAI

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No. 217

CHENNAI

(as revised in 2003)

Bye-laws of Lodge Harmony No. 217 framed under Rule 111 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of India.

MEMBERS

1. The Members of the Lodge shall comprise of three classes namely, Resident, Non-resident and Honorary.

Explanation : (1) Resident Members are those who ordinarily reside within the Corporation limits of the city of Chennai.

Explanation : (2) Non-resident Members are those who ordinarily reside beyond the corporation limits of the city of Chennai and placed on the list of the non-resident members as provided for in Bye-law No. 2.

Explanation : (3) Honorary Members are those elected as such by the Lodge in accordance with Rule 142 of the Book of Constitutions.

2. Any Resident Member, who ceases to reside within the Corporation limits of the City of Chennai may be placed by the Lodge 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 such an application is received.
3. Non-resident Members, who reside within the corporation limits of the City of Chennai for not less than three consecutive months shall be transferred to the list of Resident Members with effect from the month next after the month in which three months period is completed.

Meetings

4. The Regular Meetings of the Lodge shall be held at Freemasons' Hall, 87, Ethiraj Salai, Chennai - 600 008, on the First Thursday in the

months of February, March, August, September, November and December, on the Last Friday of the month of April and on the First Saturday of the month of July at such hour as may be directed by the Master from time to time.

Emergency Meeting

5. Emergency Meetings 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 Meetings

6. The master shall annually be elected at the Regular Meeting of the Lodge in December and shall be installed at the next Regular meeting in February.
7. The Treasurer shall be annually elected at the regular meeting of the Lodge in December.

8. The Tyler shall also be chosen at the Regular Meeting in December.

9. Fees for initiation Rs. 1000/-

Fees for joining from a Lodge
under the Grand Lodge of India Rs. 500/-

**Fees for joining from a Lodge
under any other constitution Rs. 500/-**

The above fees are payable in advance before initiation or joining or re-joining as the case may be.

10. The subscription payable shall be as follows :

Non-resident Member per annum payable in advance Rs. 500/-

Honorary members shall not be liable for any fees payable to the Lodge.

10a. Every member shall pay a sum of Rs. 1000/- every year along with the Annual Subscription towards Charity Fund to be utilised solely for the purpose of charities undertaken by the Lodge.

10b. Every member shall pay a sum of Rs. 500/- every year payable along with the Subscription towards the "Steward Fund" of the Lodge.

11. Members shall also pay the dues as demanded by the Grand Lodge and Regional Grand Lodge from time to time along with the subscription.

11a. Any member, whose subscription remains unpaid for six months even after closing of the annual accounts of the year, shall be deprived, while so in default, of all or any of the rights of voting, proposing or seconding a candidate and being appointed or elected to offices and he shall further be liable for cessation as per Book of constitution of the Grand Lodge of India and / or exclusion in accordance with provision contained in Rule 156 of the Book of Constitution.

11b. Any member of the Lodge may resign his membership by notifying such resignation by written notice to the Secretary or by declaration in open Lodge. The resignation takes effect in

accordance with Rule 158 of the Book of Constitutions. Any member who has resigned his membership, will be permitted to Re-join on payment of rejoining fee, and any arrears due but shall be subjected to a fresh ballot.

Admission of Members

12. 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 to the Lodge upon the character, qualification and general desirability of the candidates proposed for membership
13. Applications for Initiation or Joining or Re-joining shall be deposited with the Secretary at least seven days before the Meeting at which the candidate is to be proposed and seconded.
14. No candidate for Initiation, or Joining from a recognised Constitution other than the Grand Lodge of India shall be initiated or balloted for

until he has signed a declaration as set forth under Rules 136 and 137 of the Book of Constitutions and has been duly proposed and seconded and all fees payable therefor have been paid.

15. A candidate for initiation or a Brother desirous of Joining or Re-joining the Lodge shall be eligible to be made a member on his securing two third of the votes cast in the meeting when the matter comes up for election. In case of doubt, the Master may immediately cause a second ballot to be taken and if it proves unfavorable, it shall be final. In every case, the Secretary shall communicate the result of the ballot to the candidate. In all cases of unfavorable ballot, the fees shall be returned at the time information is furnished to him.
16. A candidate or a Brother rejected on ballot shall not be eligible to be proposed again until after the expiry of six months from the date of such rejection.

Duties of the Secretary

17. (i) The Secretary of the Lodge shall conduct the general correspondence, issue summonses for all meetings, record minutes of the proceedings, keep the Membership Register and the Declaration Book.

(ii) 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 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 and place the same before the Permanent 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 may claim from the Treasurer any expenses incurred towards administration of the Lodge after rendering an appropriate statement of expenditure.

Duties of the Treasurer

18. (i) 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 a scheduled Bank approved by a resolution of the Lodge.

(ii) All cheques must bear the signature of the Treasurer and the Master of the Lodge

(iii) The Treasurer shall regularly enter a complete record of all monies passing through his hands in the proper books of accounts.

(iv) The Treasurer shall prepare a statement of accounts annually made up as on 31st December of each year showing the exact

financial position of the Lodge and submit the same to the Audit Committee as early as possible in the month of January every year.

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

Duties of Tyler

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

The Tyler shall also be incharge of the Collars, Aprons etc. belonging to the Lodge. He shall receive for the proper discharge of his duties a sum as determined by the Lodge from time to time.

Propositions

20. (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 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 in the Lodge.

(ii) In the case of a tie, the Master 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 Master or until 6 months have elapsed.

Permanent Committee

21. The Master, Immediate Past Master, Present Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies and Two Members elected at the

Installation Meeting shall constitute the Permanent Committee. The Master may invite any Past Master to attend any meeting of the Permanent Committee.

It shall be duty of the Permanent Committee to check accounts, make arrangements for the

Meeting, and consider all the matters 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 Master, if present, shall preside and in his absence the Immediate Past Master or in his absence the Senior Most Brother present shall preside. The Permanent Committee shall meet as far as possible at least ten days before the date of every Regular Meeting. The Permanent Committee may if necessary, meet more often for transacting any urgent work.

Membership Committee

22. The Lodge shall elect at the Installation Meeting a Membership Committee consisting of three

Past Masters for the purpose of 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

23. At the Regular Meeting of the Lodge shall elect an Audit Committee to 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 an Annual report on the financial position of the Lodge.

Summons and Notice

24. Summons or notice which is to be sent to any member shall be deemed sufficiently served, if sent through post to the address stated in the Membership Register, unless the Secretary is duly notified of the change of address by the member concerned.

Constitutions

25. In respect of matters not specifically and expressly provided for in the Bye-laws, the laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of India as embodied in the Book of Constitutions shall apply.

Bye-laws

26. (i) It shall be competent for the Lodge to abrogate, amend, add to or alter these Bye-laws provided that the abrogation, amendment, addition or alteration shall have been approved of, at one Regular Meeting and confirmed at the next Regular Meeting of the Lodge and approved by the R.W. Regional Grand Master of Southern India and the M.W. Grand Master.

(ii) In the event of any abrogation, amendment or revision of any Bye-law or Bye-laws, the Secretary shall provide each member with a

copy thereof after approval by the R.W. The Regional Grand Master of Southern India and by the M.W. The Grand Master.

(iii) 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.

Adopted unanimously at the Consecration and Constitution of the Lodge on 30th December, 1972.

(sd.) P.R. Ramanujam
W.Master

(sd.) K. Srinivasan
Senior Warden

(sd) S.V. Kumaraswamy
Junior Warden

(sd) V. Ratnam
Secretary

Approved by the R.W. Regional Grand Master.

Chennai
2nd February 1973

(sd.) K. Veeraswami
Regional Grand Master

Approved by the M.W. The Grand Master

New Delhi
7th March 1973

(sd.) P.M. Sundaram
Grand Secretary

1st Revision :

Duly printed and circulated at the 296th Regular
(Installation) Meeting on the 19th of February, 2003.

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Bye - laws amended approved by GLI, reprinted & circulated
on 01.01.2007.

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