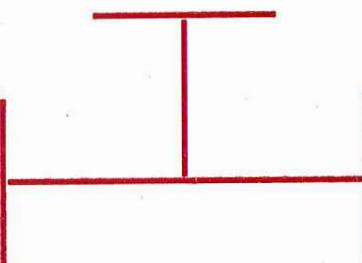


BYE - LAWS  
OF  
St. Johns' Chapter (R.A.)  
No. 2  
CHENNAI



(AS AMENDED UPTO FEBRUARY 2015)

St. John's Chapter (R.A.)  
No. 2

**1. REGULAR CONVOCATIONS**

The Regular Convocations of the Chapter shall be held at the Freemasons' Hall, 87, Ethiraj Salai, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008, on the Fourth Friday in January, April, June (Election), and October (Installation), at such hour as the Principals may fix. (Approved by The Most Worshipful, The First Grand Principal, New Delhi w.e.f. 16th April, 2015)

**2. EMERGENCY CONVOCATIONS**

The Principals may convene an Emergency Convocation when such shall be demanded necessary. Provided that when such an Emergency Convocation is held for the sole purpose of Exaltation at the request or for the convenience of a candidate or candidates, the Chapter shall require from such candidate or candidates all expenses incurred for such Convocation.

**3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Principals, Treasurer and Officers shall be elected by ballot on the regular day of election in June prescribed by the Bye-laws of the Chapter, provided that, except for the Principals who must be elected, it shall be in order for the Chapter on the day of election to resolve that they must be appointed by the Principals so elected. The Installation of the principals, if present, shall take place in October in accordance with these Bye-laws and shall be followed by the investiture of the Officers. Any Principal not so installed shall be installed at the next Convocation of the Chapter at which he may be present.

The Janitor, who must be a Royal Arch Mason registered as such in the books of the Grand Chapter, shall be elected by show of hands on the regular day of election in June. The Chapter may, however, resolve that a subscribing member of the Chapter shall be janitor without emolument, in which case he may be either elected or appointed as in the case of the other Officers.

#### **4. DUTIES OF SCRIBE E**

The Scribe E shall be in charge of all Chapter records, other than the account books maintained by the Treasurer. He shall be ex officio Secretary and Convenor of all Committees appointed by the Chapter. He shall receive from the Treasurer a permanent advance not exceeding Rs. 250/- for contingencies for which he shall render an account to him.

#### **5. DUTIES OF TREASURER**

All moneys due to the Chapter, shall be paid to the Treasurer direct, who shall without undue delay deposit the same in an the name of the Chapter at a Bank approved by a resolution of the Chapter. He shall maintain accounts and shall make only such payments as are duly authorised or have been sanctioned by the Chapter. All such payment shall be made by Cheques. All cheques must be signed by any two of the following viz : Treasurer jointly with either the 1st Principal, or the Scribe E. He shall prepare a statement of account annually as on the 30th September of each year showing the exact financial position of the Chapter.

#### **6. PERMANENT COMMITTEE**

The permanent Committee shall consist of the three Principals., Scribe E., the Treasurer and all the past First Principals of and in the Chapter and three other members to be elected by the Chapter at the Regular Convocation in October.

The duties of the Committee shall be :

1. To consider and to report on any matter referred to it by the Chapter.
2. To submit to the Chapter for consideration any matter which it may deem to be for the benefit of the Chapter.
3. To check the inventory of the property belonging to the Chapter once a year.
4. To consider and report of the Regular Convocation in October upon the work and condition of the Chapter during the preceding year.

#### **7. AUDIT COMMITTEE**

(a) The Audit Committee shall consist of two members of the Chapter who shall be collected annually at the Regular Convocation in December. It shall be the duty of this committee to audit:

1. The account of St. Johns' Chapter 150th year Commemoration Charitable Trust for the period ending 31st March, and
2. The accounts of the year and the statement of account prepared by the Treasurer as 30th September.

(b) A member of the Trust Board cannot be elected to the Audit Committee.

#### **8. HONORARY MEMBERS**

The Chapter may, subject to the provisions of Rule 142 of the B. Of C., elect as Honorary Member any companion who has rendered distinguished service to it or to the Order.

## 9. CANDIDATE FOR ADMISSION

Every candidate who has been exalted in a regular Chapter not under the Grand Chapter of India shall upon election or within one year after his election, and before being admitted for the first time as a member of the Chapter, make the following declaration :

"I exalted in the Chapter, No on the Register of the Grand Chapter do solemnly promise that if I am admitted a member of this Chapter, I will pay strict obedience to the commands of the First Grand Principal and the Regulation of the Supreme Grand Chapter."

The declaration shall be made in the Chapter which the Companion is joining or in some other Chapter under the Grand Chapter or in writing witnessed by a Companion, who shall state the Name, Number and Jurisdiction (Which must be a Grand Chapter recognised by the Grand Chapter) of the Chapter to which he himself belongs. The declaration Validates the election retrospectively and must be recorded in the chapter minutes.

No one shall be admitted if, on the ballot there appears more than two black balls : any one so rejected shall not be again proposed for admission until six months shall have elapsed from the date of his rejection.

## 10. FEES

The following fee shall be payable to the Chapter in advance.

Exaltation Fee	Rs. 500.00
Joining Fee	Rs. 300.00
Rejoining Fee	Rs. 300.00
Joining from other constitutions	Rs. 500.00

Plus the fees payable to the supreme Grand Chapter of India and Regional Grand Chapter of SI on Exaltation, Joining, Re-joining and Joining from other Constitution at the prevailing rates.

## 11. SUBSCRIPTION

The annual subscription shall be Rs. 240/- for every member, payable in advance plus the annual dues payable to the Supreme Grand Chapter of India and the Regional Grand Chapter of S.I respectively at the prevailing rates. Any Companion allowing his subscription to remain unpaid for more than six months shall be liable to exclusion under Rule 156 of B. of C.

## 12. RESIGNATION

Any member desirous of terminating his membership of the Chapter may tender his resignation in writing to the scribe E., or orally in open Chapter, and he shall be entitled to the Certificate mentioned in Rule 70, Royal Arch Regulations, stating the circumstance in which he left the Chapter. Should he at any future time wish to rejoin he shall be subject to the rules relating to joining Members.

## 13. PROPOSITIONS Etc

No motion shall be entertained unless it is duly proposed by one member and seconded by another. Subject to the provisions of the General Regulations of the Supreme Grand Chapter, every motion shall be determined by the majority of votes of the Companions present and voting. In case where the votes are equal, the presiding First Principal shall have a casting vote.

Note : By the Constitutions, certain matters require a two thirds majority.

#### **14. PROPERTY OF THE CHAPTER**

The property of the Chapter shall vest in the three principals for the time being, in trust for the Chapter.

#### **15. ALTERATION BYE-LAWS**

It shall not be competent for the Companions to abrogate, amend or alter these Bye-Laws unless the abrogation, amendment or alteration shall have been read and approved of at one Regular Convocation, confirmed at the next Regular Convocation of the Chapter and approved by the Grand Superintendent of Southern India and by the First Grand Principal.

Approved at the Regular Convocation held on 26-04-1968 and confirmed at the Regular Convocation held on June 27, 1968.

Amendment approved at the Regular Convocation held on 27-12-2002 and confirmed at the Regular Convocation held on 28-02-2003

Amendment approved at the Regular Convocation held on 19-12-2014 and confirmed at the Regular Convocation held on 27-02-2015.

This reprint is sponsored by  
M E Comp Dr Balaram Biswakumar, Past Grand 1st Principal.