

BY LAWS OF LODGE VASISHTA No 428

2 JUN 2017



1. **Officers of the Lodge :-** The officers of the Lodge shall consist of the Worshipful Master, Immediate Past Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Chaplain, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Bearers of Volumes of Sacred Laws, Sword bearer, Assistant Secretary, Assistant Director of Ceremonies, Almoner, Organist, Stewards and Tyler.
2. **Regular Meetings :-** The Regular meetings of the Lodge shall be held on the second Saturday of August (Installation Meeting), November, February and June (Election Meeting) at I Floor, Godavari Gas Co, Near Embarmannar Koll, Narasapur..
3. **Membership :-** The Lodge shall consist of Regular, Absentee and Honorary Members.
4. **Limits of Jurisdiction :-** The word " Station " shall mean the districts of East and West Godavari

CANDIDATES

5. Every candidate for initiation, joining or rejoining must be proposed and seconded by members in good standing at the Regular Meeting of the Lodge.
6. **LIABILITY OF PROPOSER & SECONDER:** The proposer and seconder shall be jointly responsible for all fees and expenses incurred on account of such brother for a period of 12 months from the date of Initiation.
7. **REJECTED CANDIDATES:** A candidate who has been rejected by ballot, shall not be again eligible for proposal for twelve months.

BALLOT AND VOTING

8. **BALLOT:** The secrecy of the Ballot shall be held strictly inviolate, and when a Ballot is taken either for initiation of a candidate or joining or rejoining of a Brother, unless a minimum of One ~~half~~ of the members present and voting approve the proposal, the proposition of such candidature or Brother shall stand rejected
9. **SECOND BALLOT:** The Worshipful Master, on a proposition duly seconded, may for the purpose of being assured that no mistake has occurred in the use of the black balls, cause a Second Ballot to be forthwith taken, which shall be final for all purposes.
10. **VOTING WHEN DEBARRED:** Any member whose subscription is in arrears for a period of 3 months shall not be eligible for proposing or seconding candidates and being appointed or elected to any office.
11. **VOTING BY PROXY:** No member shall be permitted to vote by proxy.

RESIDENT, ABESNTEE, LIFE AND HONOARY MEMBERS

12. **Resident Member :** A member is deemed to be a Resident member as long as he in " Station " as defined in By- law No 4.
13. **Absentee Member :** A resident member may be placed in the category of Absentee Member when

V.K. Singh

he leaves the station. No member leaving the station shall be treated as an Absentee Member until he informs the same in writing to the Secretary or announces it in the open Lodge. No office bearer shall be allowed to become an Absentee Member during his term of office.

14 Return of the Absentee Member :

Any member who has been placed as an Absent Member under By-Law No. 13 shall on his return to the station inform the same to the Secretary who shall at once place him as a resident member

15. LIFE MEMBER: A resident member of the Lodge, who has been a subscribing member of one or more Lodges continuously for 20 years and has also attained the age of 55 years may become a Life Member of the Lodge on payment of 5 years' lump sum subscription. This facility of becoming Life Member would also be available for one Lodge of the member's choice, if he has completed 20 years of continuous membership in more than one Lodge(s) and in such cases the Life Membership may be fixed at 50% more than that payable by other Life Members who have completed 20 continuous years in the same Lodge. Moreover, the Life Membership subscription so paid will be exclusive of the Grand Lodge and Regional Grand Lodge dues which shall be payable in addition, at the rates as applicable from time to time. The subscription amount shall be as per By-Law No. 17

16. Honorary Member : An Honorary Member shall be elected by ballot as per Rule 142 of the Book of Constitutions after notice of such election is placed in the summons. However, consent of the brother on whom Honorary Membership is conferred shall be received by the Lodge in writing before the ballot is taken.

FEES AND SUBSCRIPTION

17. The following fee shall be payable to the Lodge in advance

- | | |
|---|----------|
| a. Initiation | Rs 2,000 |
| b. Joining and Rejoining Fee | Rs 1,000 |
| c. Annual Subscription for resident Members | Rs 1,200 |
| (for 4 meetings) | |
| a. Annual Subscription for Absentee member | Rs 600 |

In addition to the above members shall be liable to pay the fees payable to the Grand Lodge of India and Regional Grand Lodge on actual basis. Subscription of the fees payable shall become due on 30th September of every year and shall be payable in advance.

18. As a part of the subscription the Lodge shall pay for the Dinner on the day of the meeting for the members attending. Lodge shall also provide aprons for the use of the members, collars of the respective offices for the members so invested and also provide the Installed Master certificate to all installed Masters and Master Mason certificate to all the members of the Lodge.

19. Should an Absentee Member attend the Lodge or the Dinner he shall be charged full Subscription for that Meeting.

20. EXCLUSION AND CESSATION OF A MEMBER :- Should the Subscription remains unpaid for six months the Secretary shall send a letter by Registered Post to the member calling upon him to pay the same within one month. If the payment is not received as stipulated, the Secretary shall report the same to the Standing Committee. The Committee in turn may recommend to the Lodge at the next Regular meeting for **exclusion** of the said member under Rule 121 of the Book of Constitutions.

Likewise should the Subscription remains unpaid for one full year, the Secretary shall send a letter by Registered Post to the brother calling upon him to pay the same within one month of the receipt of the notice. If the payment is not received as stipulated, the member shall cease to be member of all the Lodges as per Rule 124 of the Book of Constitutions.

21. Corpus Fund : A sum of Rs 1,00,000 /- (rupees one lakh only) shall be built up and maintained as Corpus Fund. The amounts shall be invested as Term Deposits with Bank(s) and the interest accrued



shall be added to the corpus.

22. The Corpus fund shall be funded by

- a. Transferring a maximum of 50 % of the interest accrued from the Deposits of the General Fund
- b. Transferring a maximum of 25 % of the annual surplus of income over expenditure.
- c. Voluntary donations.
- d. Other contributions from the General Fund as the Lodge may decide from time to time.

23. In the event of any necessity arising for the withdrawal of funds out of the Corpus fund of the Lodge, the notice of the same shall be brought in the Summons. A majority of not less than three fourths of the brethren of the Lodge present and voting at the meeting shall be required to approve the same.

24. **Charity Fund** : The Charity fund will be created / funded as under :-

- a. One half of joining / rejoining fee.
- b. Charity collections in the meetings
- c. Voluntary Donations.
- d. Transferring a maximum of 25 % of the annual surplus of income over expenditure.
- e. Other contributions from the General Fund as the Lodge may decide from time to time.
- f. Interest accrued on Charity fund deposits.

25. The Charity fund shall be solely devoted for charitable purposes . A sum of Rs 5,000 /- from this fund shall be held by the Worshipful Master , which may be utilized for any emergency cases of distress faced by a brother. Expenditure so incurred shall be ratified at the next meeting of the Lodge.

26. **General Fund** :- The amounts other than Corpus fund (under by law No 20) and Charity Fund (under Bylaw No 23 shall constitute General Fund. Any amount in excess of Rs 25,000 /- (rupees twenty five thousand only) of these funds in the Bank accounts shall be placed in either short term or long term deposits as decided by the Standing Committee. Any fixed deposit of the General Fund may be cashed after the same is approved in open Lodge by majority of the brethren of the Lodge present in the meeting.

27. **Operation of the Accounts** :- All the accounts of the Lodge shall be opened with a scheduled Bank(s) and shall be operated jointly by the Treasurer and Worshipful Master or Secretary

28. **Special Fee** :- It shall be within the powers of the Lodge to levy a special fee , on all its subscribing members to meet the expenses to organize a special banquet or other entertainment.

PROPOSITIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

29. **PROPOSITIONS**: No proposition shall be entertained until it has been duly seconded; and when a motion has been duly made and seconded, the opinion of the Brethren present who may wish to speak thereon shall be taken before it is put to vote; but no vote shall be taken on any proposal until due notice has been given in the summons. This By-Law shall not have reference to the subject matter pertaining to correspondence brought up by the Secretary, subject to the discretionary powers of the Worshipful Master.

30. **MEMBERS RIGHT TO SPEAK**: No member shall be entitled to speak more than once upon any question before the Lodge, except strictly in explanation but the member shall have the right of reply, after all the members, who may wish to do so, shall have addressed the Lodge.

31. **ADDRESSING THE LODGE**: Whenever a Brother may have occasion to speak in Lodge, he shall do so standing, in order, and shall address his remarks to the Worshipful Master in a polite and respectable language.

32. **DISCUSSIONS**: To preserve the harmony of the Lodge, the Mater shall have the discretionary power, at any stage of a discussion, to stop its being proceeded with.

V. K. Singh

33. **RESOLUTIONS** :- Any resolution passed in the open Lodge shall be binding on all the Members of the Lodge.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION

34. **ELECTION** :- The Worshipful Master and the Treasurer shall be annual elected by ballot and the Tyler chosen at the regular meeting in the month of June.
35. **INSTALLATION** :- The Worshipful Master shall be duly installed in the Regular Meeting in the month of August .

SECRETARY- HIS DUTIES

36. The Secretary shall issue the summonses for and record the minutes of all the meetings and Committees, keep the Register of Members, and discharge such other duties as laid down in the Book of Constitutions or such duties as may be delegated to him by the Worshipful Master

TRESURER AND HIS DUTIES

37. **FUNDS WITH TREASURER**: The Treasurer shall collect all dues and fees and deposit all sums in excess of Rs.1,000 (Rupees one thousand only) in his possession for over a week, in the Bank in the name of the Lodge with any scheduled Bank(s) as may be decided by the Lodge. Provided that not more than a sum of Rs. 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand only) may be kept in a Bank. Funds in excess of Rs. 20,000/- shall be kept in Fixed/Term Deposits.
38. **DUTIES OF THE TREASURER**: The Treasurer shall not pay any moneys of the Lodge, except the Statutory dues/levies and as otherwise provided for, without the direction of the Master and the brethren in the Lodge assembled.

TYLER

39. **TYLER'S DUTIES AND FEES**: The Tyler shall be paid an honorarium per meeting as decided by the Lodge from time to time. A subscribing member serving as Tyler shall be exempt from payment of monthly subscription and all other Lodge dues. He shall be responsible for the cleanliness of the Lodge and correct disposition of the Lodge furniture during the meeting. He shall also prepare the candidates for different ceremonies.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

40. An Audit Committee shall be elected by the Lodge at the Installation Meeting which shall consist of any three members with knowledge of accounts. The audit committee shall certify as per Rule No. 129 of the Book of Constitutions after due examination of the accounts of the lodge.

STANDING COMMITTEE

41. There shall be a committee, styled the Standing Committee of the Lodge, which shall consist of the Worshipful Master, all Past Masters, Past Wardens, the Senior and Junior Wardens, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Senior Junior Deacons and the Inner Guard. Five members of the said Standing Committee shall form a quorum.
42. **PRESIDENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**: The Worshipful Master shall be the President, the Immediate Past Master the Vice-President, of the Standing Committee. On their absence the Senior Brother present shall preside.
43. **STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING**: The Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Standing Committee, as and when required to do so by the Master.

44. **REFERENCE TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE:** The Worshipful Master is hereby authorised and empowered to refer to the Standing Committee, for consideration and report at any stage, any matter or proposition that may be brought before the Lodge, previous to putting the same to vote and on the Worshipful Master so referring the same, all discussions thereon in the Lodge shall immediately cease.
45. **NOTICE TO PROPOSER AND SECONDER:** When the Worshipful Master shall refer any motion to the Standing Committee, the Proposer and Secunder shall be invited to be present for the consideration of that particular question, and the Secretary shall send them notice of the time appointed for the Meeting.
46. **RULES FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEE:** The Rules for Lodge discussion shall also apply to discussions before the Standing Committee, the Presiding Officer whereof, for the time being, shall be entitled to the same respect as the Worshipful Master in the Lodge.
47. **STANDING COMMITTEE'S REPORT/ MINUTES:** At the regular meeting of the Lodge following that at which any reference has been made, the Standing Committee shall present its report/minutes and the Worshipful Master shall cause the same to be read in the open Lodge, after which its adoption or rejection shall be decided upon in the usual way on a motion duly made and seconded.
48. **POWERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE:** The Standing Committee is hereby authorized and empowered to summon any member to give information on any matters referred to it by the Lodge.

GENERAL

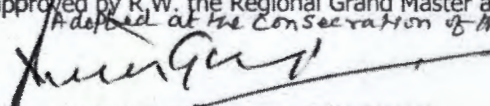
49. **VISITOR:** Every Visitor must be well vouched for or required to produce his Grand Lodge Certificate and proof of good standing of his Lodge undergo an examination.

LODGE PROPERTY

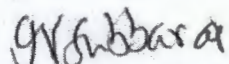
50. **LODGE PROPERTY:** Property of every description belonging to the Lodge shall be vested in the Worshipful Master and the Wardens for the time being, in trust for the Lodge, except as may be otherwise provided for.
51. **INVENTORY:** An Inventory of the Lodge property shall be entered in a book, which shall be verified by the Worshipful Master on his installation and shall be countersigned by his Wardens. Such verification shall be reported in the in the next regular meeting after installation.
52. **JEWELS COLLORS & APRONS :** The Warrant, Jewels and Working Tools belonging to the Lodge, shall be in charge of the Worshipful Master, or of such other Officers as he may appoint.

BY-LAWS

53. **BY LAWS :-** These By - laws shall be read in the open Lodge at such a time as the Worshipful Master may think proper or at least once a year, and each newly initiated or joining or re-joining brother shall be furnished with a copy.
54. **ALTERATION OF BY-LAWS:** The By- Laws or any portion thereof shall not be altered without the sanction of a majority of the members present at a Regular Meeting of the Lodge, notice of the proposed alteration being given at the previous Regular Meeting and circulated with the Summons of the Regular Meeting at which it is to be considered and confirmed at the next Regular meeting and approved by R.W. the Regional Grand Master and M.W. the Grand Master.

Adopted at the consecration of the lodge held on 2nd July 2016

 MW Bro Justice Devinder Gupta, OSM (W M)


 Bro S Bhaskar (S W)


 VW Bro I V Subba Rao (JW)


 RW Bro P Sreenivasa Moorthy (Secretary)

APPROVED BY R.W.THE REGIONAL GRAND MASTER

PLACE: Chennai
DATE: 20.8.2016

[Signature]
Regional Grand Master

APPROVED BY M.W.THE GRAND MASTER

PLACE: NEW DELHI
DATE: 30.05.2017

[Signature]
Grand Secretary