

BY - LAWS
OF
LODGE "VICTORIA"

No. 9

BELGAUM

1988



BYE-LAWS
OF
"LODGE VICTORIA"
OF
ANTIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
No. 9
ON THE ROLL OF
THE GRAND LODGE OF INDIA

[ESTABLISHED 1852]

Resuscitated (1) 7th May 1875
Resuscitated (2) 9th August 1887

1988

P R E F A C E

The Lodge Victoria was founded in the year 1852 under a Charter from The Grand Lodge of Scotland, and assigned No. 363 on the Rolls of The Grand Lodge of Scotland. The Charter was issued on the Twenty-Sixth day of February 1852 under the Seal of The Grand Lodge of Scotland and over the signature of Most Worshipful The Grand Master, The Duke of Athole. The original petition for the Charter was presented in the names of H. B. Lockett, Isac. Dracup, G. Jones, J. C. Sherrin, H. H. Hallet, John Thomas Fox, P. Roane, John Phin, John Henry Harrison, Henry Heiziell, D. H. Levack and others.

The Lodge could not function continuously in the early stages, and twice became dormant. It was resuscitated in the year 1875 and again in 1887. Thereafter it has enjoyed an unbroken period of existence. The Lodge first met in rented premises, but later constructed its own building. The Lodge building was designed by Bro. Capt. G. B. Kensington, R. E. and built under his supervision. The foundation stone was laid on 13th November 1907 by the then R. W. Master, R. W. Bro. Capt. J. W. Milne, and the building was consecrated on 29th Sept. 1908 by M. W. Bro. Col. R. H. Forman, Grand Master, A. S. F. I. The lease for the site was executed in quadruplicate between The Secretary of State for India in Council on the one part and R. W. Bro. Ernest Clements, I. C. S., R. W. Master, Lodge Victoria No.363 S. C. on the other part, and was registered on 15th July 1908.

On the completion of the Centenary of the Lodge's existence a special Centenary Meeting was held on 5th April 1954 when a very large Deputation from the Grand Lodge U. S. F. I. C. attended, led by R. W. Bro. H. B. Mulleneux, P. D. G. M. (USFIC) as Representative of M. W. The Grand Master U. S. F. I.C. A Centenary Plaque was unveiled on the occasion.

On the Inauguration of The Grand Lodge of India, the Lodge opted to join the Grand Lodge of India as a Foundation Lodge.

It was assigned No. 9 on the Rolls of The Grand Lodge of India. The original Charter from The Grand Lodge of Scotland was surrendered and the Lodge was granted a fresh Charter under the Seal of The Grand Lodge of India and over the signature of Most Worshipful The Grand Master, Maj. Gen. His Highness Dr. Sir Syed Raza Ali Khan, Nawab of Rampur.

The 125th Anniversary of the Lodge was celebrated on 12th March 1977, when M.W. Bro. Mr. Justice D. P. Madon, O.S.M., M. W. The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India, accompanied by senior Grand Lodge Officers, paid an official visit to the Lodge and unveiled the 125th Anniversary Plaque.

THE BY-LAWS OF LODGE VICTORIA

No. 9

BELGAUM.

PLACE OF MEETING

By-Law

No. 1 The Lodge shall meet at the Freemason's Hall, No. 175, Camp, Belgaum.

MEMBERS

By-Law

No. 2 This Lodge shall consist of Resident, Non-Resident and Honorary members.

(a) "Resident Member" means a member of the Lodge who ordinarily resides within 20 miles of Belgaum.

(b) "Non-Resident Member" means a member of the Lodge who is not ordinarily resident within 20 miles of Belgaum and is therefore unable to attend the Regular meetings, unless such a member expressly desires to be retained on the Resident Member list. A Non-Resident Member is not entitled to hold any office in the Lodge.

A Resident Member of the Lodge, who has given advance intimation of his intention to be absent from Belgaum for a continued period of not less than 3 months may be treated as a Non-Resident Member. Should he return to Belgaum during the 3 months, he will be treated as a Resident Member.

(c) "Honorary Member" means a brother of good standing and worthy of such distinction by reason of his services to the Craft, or to the particular Lodge, who is, or within the previous year has been, a subscrib-

ing member of a regular daughter Lodge.
(Vide Rule 142 of B. of C.)

Those Brethren, on whom the honour of DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEMBERSHIP has been conferred by the Lodge, or who were Life Members of this Lodge, when under the Scottish Constitution previous to the inauguration of the Grand Lodge of India, will continue to enjoy the same privileges as before.
(Vide Grand Lodge of India Notification / Circular / para 7 (i) dated 4th October 1961).

MEETINGS

By-Law

No. 3

(a) The Regular Meetings of the Lodge shall be held in the Freemasons' Hall, 175, Camp, Belgaum on the First Saturday of each month at such hour as the Wor. Master may fix. But if for any sufficient reason it is expedient that a meeting cannot be held on that day or in that place, it may, subject to a Dispensation from the Regional Grand Master of Southern India, Madras, be held on another convenient day and place.

(b) The Master and Treasurer of the Lodge shall be elected annually by ballot and the Tyler of the Lodge by show of hands, at the regular meeting of the Lodge in the month of December.

(Vide Rules 87A and 93 of B. of C.).

(c) The Master - Elect shall be installed at the Regular Meeting of the Lodge in the month of January succeeding the Election Meeting in December.

OFFICERS

By-Law

No. 4

(a) The Regular Officers of the Lodge shall be the Master, the Immediate Past Master, Senior Warden,

Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Inner Guard and Tyler.

(Vide Rule 86 of the B. of C.)

(b) The Master may appoint as additional Officers a Chaplain, a Director of Ceremonies, an Almoner, the Bearers of Volumes of Sacred Law, a Sword Bearer, an Assistant Director of Ceremonies, an Organist, an Assistant Secretary and Stewards, and no others.

(Vide Rule 86 of B. of C.)

(c) The Master may appoint a Brother who is holding a Regular office to one additional office also.
(Vide Rule 86 of B. of C.)

LODGE COMMITTEES

By-Law

No. 5 A

(a) THE GENERAL COMMITTEE shall consist of the Master, Past Masters in and of the Lodge, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and two Members to be appointed by the Lodge at the Installation Meeting.

(The Tyler will be on attendance.)

(b) The General Committee shall meet at the Freemasons, Hall, 175, Camp, Belgaum, half an hour earlier before the Regular Meeting of the Lodge every month or on any day and time the Wor. Master may order.

(c) The quorum for the General Committee shall be four.

(d) The General Committee shall check the Treasurer's Accounts, inspect and report on the Lodge property, consider and report on the proposals for membership of the Lodge and to transact any other

business specially referred to it by the Lodge.

(Vide Rule 130 of the B. of C.)

5 B THE AUDIT COMMITTEE shall consist of 2 members who shall be annually elected at the Installation Meeting in January. The account shall be made up to the end of December each year and shall be presented to the Lodge duly audited at the regular Installation Meeting in January.

LODGE FEES

By-Law	a) The following fees shall be payable to the	
No.6	Lodge, and they shall be paid in advance :-	
i)	For Initiation, Passing and Raising	Rs. 2500-00
ii)	For Joining from a Lodge of a recognised Constitution not under the Grand Lodge of India	Rs. 1000-00
iii)	For Joining from a Lodge under the Grand Lodge	750.00

Amended By-Laws

By-Laws No 6(b) *west 22.5.2011*

The following Subscription shall be
payable by each member of the Lodge :-

Resident Member - Rs. 750/- Per Year
Non- Resident Member – Rs. 500/- per
Year.

(Rs. 100/- will be increased yearly in the
Subscription from 2012 onwards till 2015).

(ii) Such amount per member payable to The Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India as may be determined by the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India from time to time. This sum shall be payable in the months of January and July in each year.

ARREARS

By Law

No. 7 If any member allows his subscription to remain in arrears for six months, he shall be deprived, while so in default, of the rights of voting, of proposing or seconding candidates, of being appointed or elected to offices in the Lodge and of proposing, seconding and speaking on propositions before the Lodge. Such defaulting members shall also be liable to be excluded under Rule 156 of B. of C.

LODGE FUNDS

General Fund

By-Law
No. 8 (A) All admission and joining fees and all subscriptions from members shall be allotted to The General Fund. The General Fund shall be utilized for all expenditure incurred in the administration of the Lodge.

(B) Benevolent Fund

(a) As may be resolved by the Lodge from time to time, the Lodge may transfer such amounts as the Lodge deems necessary from the General Fund to the Benevolent Fund, which shall be kept separate and distinct from the General Fund of the Lodge.

(b) For the purpose of Charity, a box will be circulated at each regular monthly meeting of the Lodge, and the amount collected shall be credited to the Benevolent Fund. The Benevolent Fund shall be

utilized to make contributions to Masonic Charities and to aid a distressed brother or his family. The merits of each case shall be investigated by the General Committee of the Lodge.

(c) In the case of great and pressing emergency, the Wor. Master is empowered to grant temporary relief from the Lodge Funds to the extent of Rs. 50-00, the reason for such disbursement being communicated to the Lodge at the next regular meeting.

SECRETARY

By-Law

No. 9

The Secretary shall conduct the general correspondence, record the minutes, issue summonses and make due Returns to Grand Lodge and Regional Grand Lodge. He shall also be Ex-officio Secretary of the General Committee.

TREASURER

By-Law

No. 10

(a) The Treasurer shall collect all fees and dues and shall issue receipts for the same. He shall deposit them in any scheduled bank or banks approved by the Lodge from time to time by passing a proper Resolution. All such bank accounts shall stand in the name of the Lodge and shall be operated by the Treasurer and the Worshipful Master or the Secretary.

(b) The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the General Fund and Benevolent Fund.

(c) The Lodge by a resolution may also invest its funds in Government and other recognized securities. The Lodge by a resolution may sell, or borrow against, such securities.

(d) The Treasurer shall not keep in hand at any time a sum in cash exceeding Rs. 250-00, and shall deposit the excess thereon in the Lodge Bank Accounts.

LODGE PROPERTY

By-Law

No. 11 (a) The property of every kind belonging to the Lodge, not vested in special Trustees, shall be vested in the Master and Wardens for the time being in trust for and subject to the directions and control of the Lodge.

(b) An Inventory of all such property shall be maintained in a Separate Register by the Wor. Master, Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer and all additions thereto and deletions therefrom shall be recorded in the Inventory as and when made. All such additions and deletions shall be submitted to the General Committee Meetings as and when made and shall be recorded in the minutes.

BALLOT

By-Law

No. 12 (a) All Candidates for Initiation, Joining and Rejoining must be proposed at a Regular Meeting of the Lodge according to Rule 135 and 138 of B. of C.

(b) No person shall be made a mason or accepted as a member of the Lodge if on ballot two Black Balls appear against him.

(c) A Collective Ballot for two or more Candidates for Initiation or Joining may be taken with approval of the Lodge. Should there, however, be even one Black Ball, each candidate should be balloted for individually. A Collective Ballot for an Initiate and a joining member is irregular.

(d) No rejected candidate can be proposed again until a period of six months has elapsed from the date of the Ballot. (Vide Rule 140 of the B. of C.)

(e) 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 for withdrawing his Candidate.

PROPOSALS

By-Law

No. 13 (a) No mention shall be put to the Lodge assembled unless duly proposed by one member and seconded by another.

(b) An amendment to any proposition may be made duly proposed and seconded. Amendments shall be put to vote first. If negatived, the original proposition shall then be put to the vote; but if the amendment is carried, the original proposition shall be decided to be lost.

(c) No proposition of importance shall be brought forward for consideration unless notice thereof has been given at the previous Regular Meeting, or in writing to the Secretary, well in advance and in time to be circulated with the Summons of the meeting.

AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS

By-Law

No. 14 Amendments of these By-Laws or of any of them may be made only in the following manner :—

(a) Notice of motion in writing stating the precise amendment or amendments proposed shall be given in open Lodge at a Regular Meeting of the Lodge.

(b) The motion shall be set out in the Summons for the next Regular Meeting summoned for the purpose, and shall at such meeting be put to the Lodge.

(c) A resolution for amendment, of which notice shall have been given as aforesaid, shall be carried if a

majority of the members present vote in favour of it. But shall not be effective until approved by the Regional Grand Master and by the Grand Master.

VISITORS

By-Law

No. 15 The General Committee may from time to time fix a fee to be paid by members for visitors who may be invited by a member to Banquets or other functions connected with the Lodge.

COLOUR OF CLOTHING

By-Law

No. 16 The colour of the Lodge Clothing will be Cambridge Blue.

BY-LAWS

By-Law

No. 17 (a) The By-Laws shall be printed at the expense of the Lodge, and a copy presented to every Brother. Every member on his Initiation or Joining shall receive a copy of the By-Laws. His acceptance shall be deemed to be a declaration of his submission to them.

(b) These By-Laws shall be read in open Lodge at a Regular Meeting at least once a year as early as possible after the Installation Meeting.

(c) In any case, for which the foregoing By-Laws do not provide, the Laws and Regulations contained in the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of India shall be binding on all concerned.

CHARTER
GRAND LODGE OF INDIA

To all and every our Right
Worshipful,
Worshipful and loving brethren.
We
Major General His Highness

Dr. Sir Syed Raza Ali Khan
G. C. I. E., K. C. S. I., D. I.itt. LL. D.,
NAWAB OF RAMPUR.

GRAND MASTER

Of the Most Antient and Honourable Fraternity of Free
and Accepted Masons of India send Greeting.

Know ye That the Victoria Lodge No. 363 on the Roll of
the Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of
Scotland having decided to opt for the Grand Lodge of India,
we by the authority and under the sanction of the Grand Lodge
of India vested in us for that purpose do hereby sanction and
confirm that the said Lodge shall be constituted into a Lodge
of Free and Accepted Masons under the title and denomination
of VICTORIA No. 9 on the Rolls of the Grand Lodge
of India.

By virtue of this warrant the said Lodge shall be deemed
to be a Foundation Lodge of the Grand Lodge of India.

The original Charter/Warrant of the said Lodge issued
by the Grand Lodge of Antient Free and Accepted Masons of
Scotland was dated 26th February 1852.

The said Lodge shall come under the jurisdiction of the
Grand Lodge of India with effect from the date of issue of this
Warrant.

The said Lodge shall be permitted to count its years of
existence under its previous Charter / Warrant when making
claims for Centenary Warrant etc. under the Grand Lodge of
India.

The said Lodge to meet at Freemasons' Hall, Belgaum
on the First Saturday of Every Month empowering them in the
said Lodge when duly congregated to make, pass and raise
Freemasons according to the antient custom of the Craft in all
Ages and Nations throughout the known World. And further
that the Master the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden for
the time being shall continue to hold the said Lodge and until
such time as another Master shall be regularly elected and
installed strictly charging that every member who shall be
elected to preside over the said Lodge and who must previously
have duly served as Warden in a Warranted Lodge shall be
installed in Antient Form and according of the Laws of the
Grand Lodge that he may thereby be fully invested with the
dignities and powers of his office And we do require you the
said Master and Wardens to take special care that all and
every said Brethren are or have been regularly made Masons
and that you and they and all the other Members of the said
Lodge do observe, perfom and keep the Laws, Rules and Orders
contained in the Book of Constitutions and all others which
may from time to time be made by our Grand Lodge or
transmitted by us or our successors Grand Masters or by our
Deputy Grand Master for the time being and we do enjoin you
to make such By-Laws for the Government of your Lodge as
shall to the majority of the members appear proper and
necessary, the same not being contrary to or inconsistent with
the General Laws and Regulations of the Craft, a copy whereof
you are to transmit to us. And we do require you to cause all
such By-Laws and regulations and also an account of the
proceeding in your Lodge to be entered in a Book to be kept for
that purpose, and you are in no wise to omit to send to us or
our Successors Grand Masters or to our Deputy Grand Master
for the time being at least once in every year a list of the
members of your Lodge and the names and descriptions of all

Masons initiated therein and Brethren who shall have joined the same with the fees and monies payable thereon. It being our Will and intention that this Our Warrant of Constitution shall continue in force so long only as you shall conform to the Laws and Regulations of our Grand Lodge and you the said Master and Wardens are further required as soon as convenient may be to send us an Account in writing of what shall be done by virtue of these Presents.

Given under our hands and the Seal of the Grand Lodge at New Delhi this 24th day of November 1961, corresponding to 3rd Agra Hayana 1883 S. E.

(Sd.) **Sayed Raza Ali Khan**
Grand Master

(Sd.) **P. M. Sundaram**
Grand Secretary.

ORIGINAL CHARTER
GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND
LODGE No. 363
S. C.

TO ALL AND SUNDAY to whose knowledge these presents shall come, Greeting in God Everlasting whereas upon the twenty sixth day of February, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Two a Petition was presented to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in name of H. B. Lockett, Isac. Dracup. G. Jones, J. C. Sherrin, H. H. Hallett, John Thomas Fox, P. Roane, John Phin, John Henry Harrison, Henry Heiziell, D. H. Levack, and others, Praying the said Grand Lodge to grant a Charter of Constitution and Erection in the usual form, for holding a Lodge under the name and title of "Victoria" Belgaum and Proposing the persons aftermentioned to be the first Office Bearers thereof, viz. H. B. Lockett, R. W. Master; Isac Dracup, W. Senior Warden; G. Jones, W. Junior Warden; D. H. Levack, Secretary; J. C. Sherrin, Treasurer and Senior Deacon; H H Hallett, Junior Deacon; John Thomas Fox, Inner Guard; P. Roane, Tyler; which Petition, with the requisite Certificates therewith produced, having been duly considered in Grand Lodge assembled, they were pleased to ordain a Charter to be issued in the terms underwritten. Know ye therefore the Most Worshipful The Grand Master Mason of Scotland and the Grand Lodge thereof have constituted, erected and appointed, like as they hereby Constitute, erect and appoint the Master Wardens and Brethren above named to be now, and in all time coming a true and regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, under the name style and title of "Victoria" Belgaum and appoint and ordain all regular Lodges to hold and respect them as such, giving, granting and committing to them and those to be afterwards admitted members of the said Lodge full power and authority to meet, assemble and convene as a regular Lodge; and to enter Apprentices, pass Fellow Crafts, and raise

Master Masons, upon payment of such compositions, for the support of their Lodge, as they shall see convenient, but which compositions at their initiation shall not be under the sum of One Pound One Shilling Stg. And with power also annually to elect and choose Masters, Wardens and other Office Bearers, recommending to the Brethren of the said Lodge to reverence and obey their Superiors, in all things lawful and honest, as becometh the honour and harmony of Masonry; and the said Brethren becoming bound on no account to desert their own Lodge, nor upon any pretext whatever to make any separate or schismataical meetings, independent of the Master and Wardens for the time; nor to introduce any other orders of Masonry than those sanctioned by the Grand Lodge; nor to collect funds separate from the common stock of their Lodge, to the prejudice of the Poor thereof. And declaring that the said Lodge and whole constituent members thereof now and in all time coming shall, by accepting this present CHARTER, be bound in faithful allegiance to the said Grand Lodge as HEAD of the Masonic Body in SCOTLAND; and shall be obliged to obey and pay due regard to all acts, statutes and regulations of the said GRAND LODGE already made and enacted or hereafter to be made and enacted, for the utility, welfare and prosperity of Masonry. And generally to pay and perform whatever is required from them, for the support and dignity of the Grand Lodge. And particularly to account and pay into the funds of the Grand Lodge, at least the sum of Five Shillings and Six Pence Sterling for each member initiated in their Lodge, from and after the date hereof; which sums they shall cause to be annually remitted to the Grand Secretary, at Edinburgh, and at the same time transmit to him a list of the names of the members initiated in order that the same may be recorded in the Books of the Grand Lodge; and The Brethren of said Lodge shall be bound to record, in the Books of their Lodge (which Books they are hereby authorised and enjoined to keep), this present CHARTER their own regulations and by-laws and minutes of their whole procedure from time to time, so that the same may be better known and more easily observed by the Brethren, Subject always nevertheless to the review and control

of the Grand Lodge; and the said Brethren are hereby required to attend the whole General Meetings and Quarterly Communications of the Grand Lodge by their Representatives, being their Master and Wardens, for the time, or by lawful proxies in their names (provided such proxies be Master Masons of some established Lodge holding of the Grand Lodge) so that they, by their said Representatives, may act and vote in the Grand Lodge and be duly certiorated of the proceedings thereof. Declaring the said Lodge's precedence in the Grand Lodge to be from the date hereof. And, for the more effectual preservation of these presents, the same are hereby appointed to be recorded in the Books of Grand Lodge.

Given at the GRAND LODGE of SCOTLAND held in Free Masons Hall in the CITY of EDINBURGH the Twenty Sixth day of February in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Two. And of Five Thousand and Fifty Six. By the Most Noble George Augustus Frederick John, Duke of Athole, Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason of Scotland; J. Whyte Melville of Bennochy and Strathkinness, Esquire, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master; G. Haikett Inglis of Gramond, Esquire, Right Worshipful Substitute Grand Master; Sir John Dick-Lander of Fountainhall, Baronet, Right Worshipful, Senior Grand Warden; Sir James W. Drummond of Howthornden, Baronet, Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden; William Alexander Laurie Esquire, Right Worshipful Grand Secretary.

(Signed) W. A. Laurie,
 " Grand Secretary,
 " Athole,
 " J. Whyte Melville,
 " C. Haikett Inglis,
 " John Dick-Lander,
 " James W. Drummond.