

Lodge Ramalinga No. 265

History of the Lodge

The Seven resident Brotheren of Anakapalle and two Brothren of Chodavaram having felt the want of a Masonic Lodge made enquiries in January 1984 as to how many Brothern would join in founding a Lodge at Anakapalle. The ready and encouraging response enabled to launch the Lodge initially with the untiring efforts of W.Bro. G. Krishna Rao of Visakhapatnam, and due to continued efforts put in by W.Bro. I.V.S.S. Murthy A.R.G.M. of the area. There was lot of cooperation and coordination of all the resident brotheren of Anakapalle in general and that of Bro. Tatikonda Nookaiah Chetty and Bro. Tootika Veerabhadra Rao in particular. With these efforts fully backed by W.Bro. Major Kodukula Satyanarayana as organising Secretary, a man of dedication, devotion and tenacity to get a Mosonic Lodge at Anakapalle, a potential big sweet town with traditional virtue of philanthropy, bore the fruit. The petition of 24 brotheren was submitted to the Grand Lodge through the Regional Grand Lodge of Southeren India, on 6th August 1985 duly sponsored by Lodge Waltair No. 56, Visakhapatnam and duly recommended by the A.R.G.M. The M.W. The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of India, granted a Warrant dated 17th October 1985. It was originally thought of naming the lodge as lodge Sarada, tipifying the river Sarada of Anakapalle and the Godess Saraswati. But after sometime it was thought fit to name the Lodge as Lodge Ramalinga. This Lodge was Consecrated and constituted on 22nd December 1985 at Hamilton Memorial Masonic Temple at Visakhapatnam with W.Bro. Poosarla Gowri Sankar Rao and W.Bro. Major Kodukula Satyanarayana as founder master and secretary respectively.

Consecration & Constitution

Lodge Ramalinga was consecrated and constituted on Sunday the 22nd December 1985 at Hamilton Memorial Masonic Temple, Visakhapatnam. R.W.Brother Honourable Justice S. Natarajan P.A.G.M. and Dy. R.G.M. was the consecrating officer. He was ably assisted by a number of masonic degnitories. (To name a few R.W.Bro. V. Sarangapani, V.W.Bro. V.G. Rama Moorthy, V.W.Bro. Dr. V.V. Chetty, W.Bro. I.V.S.S. Murthy W.Bro. K. Aligari Swamy. The Ceremonious function was attended by 14 consecrating officers, 17 founder members and 69 visiting Brotheren. The Lodge was consecrated according to ancient custom and ritual in a very solemn and impressive way. R.W. Bro. V. Sarangapani delivered the oration on the nature and purpose of freemasonry. W.Bro. I.V.S.S. Murthy took over the Estern Chair as installing Officer, and Installed W.Bro. P. Gowri Sankar Rao as W.M. Who Thanked R.W.Bro. Natarajan, R.W.Bro. Sarangapani and V.W.Bro. Rama Moorthy for their impressive addresses to Master, Wardern and brothren respectively. He also thanked Lodge Waltair, the Brotheren who donated some masonic articles, visiting bretheren and all who made the consecration function eventful and unforgettable one.

BY-LAWS

Preamble :

Whereas it appears proper and necessary to us, we the members of Lodge Ramalinga No. 265, do hereby establish and Subscribe to the following Bye-Laws.

Object of By-Laws :

The By-Laws are established with the object of assisting not only in the well ruling, governing and ensuring proper functioning of the lodge according to ancient custom and in conformity with the Constitution of the Ancient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons

under the Grand Lodge of India, but also for the steady progress of the lodge and promoting Peace, Harmony and Brotherly feelings among ourselves.

Headings : The Headings are for convenience of reference only and are not to affect the counteraction of these rules nor to form any part there of

I) Regular Meetings :

- a) The Regular meetings fo the Lodge shall be held at Freemason Hall, Near By-Pass Junction, Anakapalle. on the Fourth Sunday of Every Month at such hour as the Master may direct.
- b) Summons for convening the regular meetings of the lodge shall be issued at least Ten Days previous to such meetings.

II) Emergency Meegings :

- a) The holding of emergency meetings shall be governed by the provisions of the Rule 116 of B of C.
- b) The Summons for convenign and emergency meeting of the lodge, be issued at least Seven Days Previous to such meeting.
- c) Where as an emergency meeting is held for the sole purpose of confirming a degree at the request of and for the convenience of a candidate, or candidates, he or they shall meet the expenses.

III) Membership :

- a) The membership fo the Lodge shall consist of three classes, namely (i) Resident, (ii) Non-Resident and iii) Honorary.
- i) **Resident :** Those members who reside within the limits of Anakapalle Municipality and all office - bearers.
- ii) **Non-Resident :** Those members who reside beyond the limits of Anakapalle Municipality, if they choose to be so and communicate their such choice to the secretary in writting.

- iii) **Honorary :** The Lodge may, if it thinks fit acknowledge the services of a brother, for services rendered to masonry in general and to lodge Ramalinga No. 265 in particular, elect him as an honorary member thereof, according to Rule 142 of the B of C.
- iv) **Admission & Retirement of Members :**
 - a) No candidate for free masonry, shall be initiated and no brother shall be admitted as a joining or rejoining member of the Lodge if on the ballot, Three or more black balls appear against him.
 - b) The master may, if he is of the opinion, that a mistake may have been committed in the ballot, cause a second ballot to be taken forthwith, which shall be final.
 - c) A candidate rejected for Initiation or joining or rejoining, shall not be again proposed in lodge until after the lapse of six months from the date of ballot.
 - d) A member whose subscription remain unpaid for a period of 24 months, shall be liable for exclusion as per Rule 156 of B of C.
 - e) Member who are in default in payment of their subscriptions for more than 12 months, after it becomes due shall be deprived, while so in default, of all the rights of voting, proposing of seconding candidates and being elected or appointed to any office, under the provisions of the Rule 121 of B of C.
 - f) A member desirous of terminating his membership by resignation, shall act strictly according to Rule 158 of B of C.
 - g) A member who has resigned under Rule 158 of B of C, or has ceased to be a member under Rule 121 of B of C or excluded under Rule 160 of B of C, may be permitted to join or rejoin, only on payment of all former arrears together with the fee for joining or rejoining, which shall be subject to a fresh proposition and ballot according to Rule 139 of B of C.

V. Election & Installation:

- a) The master shall be elected by ballot at the regular meeting to be held in September and the Master - Elect shall be installed at the next regular meeting to be held in October.
- b) The Treasurer shall be elected also by ballot at the regular meeting day of election of Master, and he shall be invested at the Installation Meeting or thereafter and duly authorised to operate bank accounts.
- c) The Tyler shall be elected by the member on the regular day of election of Master.

VI) Subscriptions :

- a) The Annual Subscription of Rs. 2000/- per a Resident Member shall per year payable on the first day of the year.
- b) The Annual subscription of a Non-Resident Member shall be Rs. 1,500/- per annum to be paid before 31st March.

VII) Fees :

The following shall be the Fees payable in Advance :

Initiation	Rs. 300/-
Joining	Rs. 100/-
Rejoining	Rs. 100/-

VIII) Fees of Honour :

Every member on his First appointment or election to any offices of the Lodge, may voluntarily pay the Fee of Honour as donation as mentioned hereunder.

Worshipful Master	Rs. 200/-
Warden	Rs. 100/-
Deacon	Rs. 75/-
Inner Guard	Rs. 50/-
Any other Office	Rs. 25/-

These amounts shall be kept in Fixed Deposit and the interest earned thereon may be spent only for acquiring new or main training the old Lodge regalia, furniture etc.,

IX. Building Fund :

a) The following amounts may be paid as voluntary donation towards building fund :

By Initiates Rs. 500/-

By J or RJ members Rs. 250/-

- b) 5% of Annual Subscriptions and 10% of Steward Fund shall be credited to Building Fund.
- c) The Building fund, shall, initially be used for acquiring a site and construction of a Masonic Temple at Anakapalle, and thereafter for its maintenance and repairs.
- d) The building Fund amounts shall be deposited in a separate Bank account.

X. Charity Fund :

- a) The Charity collections at every meeting shall be deposited in a separate bank account.
- b) The fund so collected, or by donations, and the interests earned thereon shall, as far as practicable, be disbursed to the needy, distressed or to meritorious and disabled students.

XI Stewards Fund :

- a) No amounts from the general fund shall be spent for refreshments or fellowship after meetings.

- b) The initiates and joining or rejoining members shall contribute Rs. 100/- and Rs. 50/- respectively towards steward fund, along with fees.
- c) As far as practicable the monthly lunches or dinner after the meetings, shall be hosted by one or more brethren, at a time. The entire installation expenses shall be born by Master - elect (expect the usual regular meeting expenses if any). The secretary shall fix up the host or hosts who have to oblige. When no host can be fixed for any reason the fellowship and dinner expenses shall be borne by the Lodge members, present in that meeting.
- d) The Stewards Fund shall be spent for purposes as may be decided by the Lodge.

XIII. Propositions :

- a) Any member of the Lodge, desiring to make a motion therein or submit any matter for its consideration at any regular meeting thereof shall give notice in writing to the secretary, of the precise nature of such matter, not less than fourteen days before such meeting. No such motion or matter shall be dealt within the Lodge, unless such notice has been given, except by special leave of twothirds of the members present at the meeting.
- b) No motion, the substance of which the lodge has already considered and decided upon, shall again be brought forward or otherwise discussed, save at the instance of the Master, or after the expiry of six months from the date of such consideration or discussion.
- c) Two thirds of the members present at the meeting may allow to be introduced or discussed at any regular meeting of the lodge, without notice, any business of motion, which they shall consider to be urgent.
- d) Nothing in the foregoing Rules shall require to be given of any

motion to adopt or otherwise deal with any report or recommendation of any committee of the Lodge.

XIII. Secretary :

- a) All correspondence from the members of the Lodge shall be addressed to the secretary.
- b) As per rule 86 of B of C the services of the secretary may be deemed equivalent to payment of subscription by him, (If he so desires) but he is liable to pay other dues, if any to the lodge like any other member. The Lodge shall pay the Grand Lodge and Regional Grand Lodge dues of his behalf.
- c) A Sum of 500/- may be kept with the secretary, as imprest, to meet contingent expenses, and when the amount is spent in whole or part, he shall furnish to the treasurer the account with vouchers, who shall recoup the amount.

XIV. Treasurer :

- a) The Treasurer shall have charge of and be responsible for the monies and all accounts and other relevant books of the lodge. He only shall receive directly all monies due to or held for the lodge and immediately deposit the same, in the name of the Lodge at a bank approved by a resolution of the Lodge, and shall make payments, as are duly authorised or have been sanctioned by the lodge, and the vouchers for all payments shall be countersigned by the Master or the secretary.
- b) The Treasurer shall operate bank accounts in conjunction with the signature of either the Master or the secretary.
- c) The Treasurer shall read the accounts, at every regular meeting, to the end of the previous month.

- d) The Treasurer shall submit a statement of account for the half year ending 31st March at the regular meeting held in April. He shall prepare annual accounts up to 30th September and give them for audit to the audit committee.
- e) The Treasurer shall prepare and submit a Budget, to be considered by Standing Committee, and submit to the lodge, to be considered at the regular meeting to be held in the month of December.

XV. Tyler :

- a) The tylers duties are those laid down in B of C. He is responsible for the cleanliness of the lodge, its furniture, and correct arrangements, for the meetings and for careful custody of all lodge property, subject to the control of the secretary and subject to checking or inspection by the Standing Committee and or by the Master and Wardens, atleast once a year.
- b) The Tyler, if a Serving Brothern, shall receive fees of such amount for each meeting, and may be paid for preparing the candidates for initiation, passing and raising, as the lodge shall from time to time determine.
- c) The Tyler, if a subscribing member, his services may be deemed equivalent to payment of subscription by him. (If He so desires) as per rule 86 of B of C; but he is liable to pay other dues, if any as anyother member. The Lodge shall pay the Grand Lodge and The Regional Grand Lodge, dues on his behalf.

XVI Standing Committee :

- a) The Standing Committee shall consist of The Master, The senior and Junior Wardens, all the Past Masters in the lodge, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Lodge, and two brothern to be elected by the Lodge at the Installation Meeting day.

- b) The Secretary of the lodge shall be also the secretary of the Standing committee.
- c) Five members of the Standing committee shall be the quorum.
- d) The Standing Committee shall meet, at least once, every month, and as often as may be necessary and to be determined by the Master and/or secretary.
- e) The meeting of the Standing Committee shall be covered by summons by notice with agenda and communicated to all members, at least four days previous to such meeting.
- f) The minutes of all standing committee meetings shall be sent to all the members of the committee, within a week of such meeting.
- g) Till the Lodge own its own temple, the standing committee meets one hour early to the regular meeting. Notice will be given in summons only. No prior intimation is necessary. As standing committee recommendations will be accepted immediately in the regular meeting to follow, no minutes need be sent to the members.
- h) Any recommendations of the standing committee, as may be decided by the committee as important should under it as direction, be brought on the summons for the next regular meeting of the lodge, for its consideration.
- i) The standing committee shall consider and report its recommendations to the lodge, on all proposals for membership and on all general questions affecting the lodge and any matter or matters, specially referred to it by the lodge.
- j) The Standing committee, shall get an inventory made of the properties of the lodge and check up the same at least once every year, either by itself or through the secretary.

k) The standing Committee shall have the power to appoint any subcommittee, consisting of three members, two of whom shall be members of the standing committee, and the third may be one specially chosen for the occasion, by the committee from among the members of the Lodge, in case of urgent and important matter or matters. The Subcommittee shall report to the Standing Committee, which may adopt it in toto or modify or reject as the case may be.

l) The Standing Committee shall submit its report on the happenings and financial condition during the previous year, in time, to enable the secretary, to enclose that report with the summons for the Installation Meeting at which it shall be considered and adopted.

XVII. Audit Committee:

- a) The audit committee shall consist of Two members, so elected on the day of the Installation Meeting of the Lodge.
- b) The audit committee scrutinizes, the budget for the ensuing year, to be submitted by the treasurer at the regular meeting to be held in the month of January, properly considered and duly recommended by the standing committee.
- c) The Audit committee shall submit and audited Balance Sheet (Receipts & Payments, income and expenditure and Assets and Liabilities) and its report, on the accounts made up to 30th September, in time, that it can be enclosed to the summons for the Installation Meeting in October, for the consideration and adoption by the Lodge at the meeting but not later than the meeting in December in conformity with Rule 129 of B of C.

XVIII. General

- a) The Book of Constitution shall be referred to, on any occasion for the guidance of the officers and members of the lodge, the Bylaws of the Lodge, being only intended for day to day administrations.
- b) Should there be any objection to the introduction of a candidate for initiation or a brother joining or rejoining, it is recommended that such objection be mentioned directly to the Master and/or the Secretary who shall treat all such reports as strictly confidential, but he or they may communicate with the proposer and give him the opportunity of withdrawing his proposal.

XIX Conclusion :

These By-laws shall not be abrogated, amended or altered except by proposition made and seconded at one regular meeting, considered and approved at the next regular meeting, and which such approval shall be confirmed at the next (third) regular meeting, by the majority of members present on such occasions, no can any alteration take effect, till a proved by The R.W. The Regional Grand Master and The M.W. The Grand Master.

By-Laws Approved and Confirmed in open Lodge on 19-01-1986.

(Sd) W.Bro. P.G. Sankar Rao (W.M.)

(Sd) Bro. V. Chiranjivi (S.W.)

(Sd) Bro. T. Veerabhadra Rao (JW)

Anakapalle,

19-01-1986

Venue : Y.M.V.A.S.V.R. Memorial Hall, Time : 10 a.m.

Office Address : W.Bro. Major K. Satyanarayana, Secretary, Lodge Ramalinga, Chintavari Street, Anakapalle - 531 001, Ph:2863