

**LODGE FORTITUDE No.463**

**BYE-LAWS**

**Framed under Rule 111 of the Book of Constitution G.L.I.**

**1. MEMBERS**

The members of the lodge shall comprise of four classes, viz:-

- (a) Resident Members
- (b) Non-Resident Members
- (c) Honorary Members
- (d) Life Members

19 JAN 2019

**Explanation I** Resident Members are those who reside within the metropolitan city of Chennai and the territorial limits are as defined under the Chennai Municipal Corporation Act of 1919.

**Explanation II** Non-Resident members are those who ordinarily reside beyond the corporation limits of the city of Chennai and placed on the list of Non-Resident members as provided for in Bye Law No.2.

**Explanation III** Life members are those who choose to become as such by paying a lumpsum amount equal to 'Ten years' Annual subscription as on date payable to the lodge by resident members, provided they have been subscribing members for 20 years continuously in this lodge and have also attained the age of 55 years. Also, if such a member has multiple membership in many Lodges, he could become a life member in only one of the Lodges of his choice. In all cases, membership in this category will be in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Grand Lodge of India and the Grand Board of General Purposes from time to time.

**Explanation IV** Honorary members are those elected as such, by the Lodge in accordance with Rule 142 of the Book of Constitutions.

**2. CONVERSION OF MEMBERSHIP FROM RESIDENT TO NON RESIDENT STATUS**

Any resident Member who ceases to reside within the corporation limits of the city of Chennai may be placed 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 the application is received. The revised subscription will be applicable from the ensuing year.

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### **3. CONVERSION OF MEMBERSHIP FROM NON-RESIDENT TO RESIDENT STATUS**

Non-resident Member who residing 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 first month after the month on which the Three months period is completed. The revised subscription will be applicable from the ensuing year.

### **4. CONVERSION OF MEMBERSHIP FROM EITHER RESIDENT OR NON-RESIDENT TO LIFE STATUS**

Both resident and Non-resident members who become eligible can opt to convert their membership status to that of Life Member by paying the prescribed Life Membership fee, as under Bye Law No.5, and subject to the guidelines laid down by the Grand Board of General Purposes from time to time and according to Bye Law No.1 (3).

### **5. SUBSCRIPTION**

The accounting year will be from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August. Thus, the annual subscription and other dues shall be collected from this period every year.

A.) Every Resident Member shall pay the prescribed Annual Subscription to the Lodge. In addition to this, he shall pay the Annual dues to the Grand Lodge of India and to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India as prescribed by the from time to time.

B.) Every Non-Resident member shall pay the prescribed Annual subscription to the Lodge. In addition to this, He shall pay the Annual dues to the Grand Lodge of India and to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India as prescribed by the from time to time.

C.) Upon becoming a Life member under the guidelines laid down by the Grand Board of General purposes from time to time, the Life Member shall pay- One Time life membership fee equal to Ten years' Annual subscription payable by the resident members to the Lodge as on date. However in addition to this he shall continue to pay the annual dues to the Grand Lodge of India and to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India as prescribed by the from time to time. He shall not have to pay only the Annual dues to the Lodge thereafter, as long as he remains a life member of this Lodge.

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## 6. EXCLUSION

A.) If any member allows all or any part of his regular Annual dues or subscription to remain unpaid beyond the last day of December following the date of Installation meeting, the secretary shall issue an intimation by a registered letter to the defaulting members' last known address; and if the arrears are not cleared in full within 30 days from the date of issue of such registered letter, the defaulting member shall be liable for exclusion under Rule No:156 of Book of Constitution.

B.) Any member who has been cessated under rule 124 may be permitted to rejoin, provided that he is regularly proposed and balloted for in accordance with Rule of the Book of Constitutions and provided further he pays all arrears due from him and the prescribed fee for rejoining.

## 7. INITIATION, JOINING, AND REJOINING

A) No candidate for initiation or joining shall be initiated or balloted for until he has signed the declaration as set forth under rule 137 of the Book of Constitutions and has been duly proposed and seconded and all fees payable therefore have been paid.

B) Application for initiation or joining shall be deposited with the secretary at least seven days before the meeting at which the candidate is to be proposed and seconded.

C) No person shall be made a Mason in, or admitted a member of a daughter Lodge, unless if on ballot for initiation/joining/rejoining simple majority of members present and voting in the Lodge approve the proposals for such Candidate in accordance with the rulings of the Grand Lodge of India and as prescribed in Rule 140 of the Book of Constitutions or by communication from the Grand Board of General purposes. However if the Worshipful Master is of the opinion that a mistake may have occurred in the ballot, he may order a second ballot to be taken forthwith and the result of the second ballot shall be finally accepted.

D) In all cases of unfavourable ballot, the fees, previously paid by the candidate shall be refunded.

E) No candidate rejected for Initiation or membership shall be proposed to the Lodge again until the expiry of at least six months from the date of last ballot.

F) The scale of fees payable by a candidate for initiation, joining or rejoining shall be as follows

### (i) Initiation

1. Initiation fees payable to the Lodge	15,000.00
2. Annual Subscription payable to the Lodge	5000.00

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3. Registration fees payable to the Grand Lodge India and to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India

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4. Annual dues payable to the Grand Lodge of India and to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India

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1,2,3,4 above is subject to change from time to time and as warranted.

(Items 3 & 4 above as applicable from time to time)

**(ii) Joining from Indian Constitution**

1. Joining fee payable to the Lodge 15000.00

2. Annual Subscription payable to the Lodge 5000.00

3. Registration fees payable to the Grand Lodge of India and to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India

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4. Annual dues payable to the Grand Lodge of India and to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India

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(Items 3 & 4 above as applicable from time to time)

**(iii) Joining from other Constitutions**

1. Joining fee payable to the Lodge Rs.15,000.00

2. Annual Subscription payable to the Lodge Rs. 5000.00

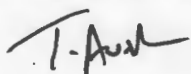
3. Registration fees payable to the Grand Lodge of India and to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India

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4. Annual dues payable to the Grand Lodge of India and to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India

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(Items 3 & 4 above as applicable from time to time)



#### **(iv) Rejoining**

1. Joining fee payable to the Lodge 15,000.00
2. Annual Subscription payable to the Lodge 5000.00
3. Registration fees payable to the Grand Lodge of India and to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India

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4. Annual dues payable to the Grand Lodge of India and to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India

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5. The Lodge will have sufficient powers rested to allocate a portion of the subscription, and other amounts collected towards the Steward fund and Almoner fund. Though, no bank account will be opened for the same purpose. Members contribute to the Steward fund and for Almoner fund.  
(Items 3 & 4 above as applicable from time to time)

#### **8. REGULAR MEETING**

The regular meeting of the Lodge shall be held at Freemasons' Hall, Chennai and / or at such other places as the Lodge may decide, on the First Sunday of every month, except in the months of January, May and June, at such hour as may be directed by the Worshipful Master from time to time.

#### **9. EMERGENCY MEETING**

Emergency meetings may be held in accordance with Rule 116 of the Book of Constitution.

Any member at whose request an emergency meeting is convened shall pay a fee of Rs.1000 and also such other expenses as may be incurred on account of holding such an emergency meeting.

#### **10. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION MEETING**

- A) The Worshipful Master shall be elected by Ballot at the Regular meeting in August and installed in the next Regular Meeting in September.
- B) The treasurer shall be elected by Ballot at the Regular Meeting in August and invested in the next Regular Meeting in September.
- C) The Tyler shall be chosen by show of hands at the Regular Meeting in August and invested in the next Regular Meeting in September.

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## **11. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Lodge shall Annually elected at the installation meeting a membership committee consisting of Three members for the purpose of considering and reporting to the Lodge upon the character, qualifications and the general desirability of the candidates proposed for membership in the Lodge.

## **12. AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Lodge shall annually elect at the installation meeting the Audit Committee consisting of two members, as prescribed in Rule 129 of the Book of Constitutions for the purpose of conducting the Audit of the accounts of the Lodge.

## **13. STANDING COMMITTEE**

A) The Lodge shall annually elect at the installation meeting the Committee which shall consist of the Worshipful Master, the Immediate Past Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies, Senior Deacon and two other members to elected by the Lodge.

B) The standing committee shall meet at least once a month, except in the months of December, April and May before the Regular meeting.

C) It shall be the duty of the committee to check the accounts, make arrangements for the meetings and consider all matters connected with the working of the Lodge, to inspect and check all the properties of the Lodge and report upon the general working of the Lodge.

D) The Worshipful Master shall preside over the standing committee meetings. In the absence of Worshipful Master, the Immediate Past Master or in his absence, any other Past Master who is the member of the committee shall preside over the meeting.

E) In order to constitute a meeting of this Standing Committee, the quorum shall be four members.

F) All matters shall be decided by a majority decision.

G) In the case of conflict of votes on any matter, the person who presides shall have a second or casting vote.

H) All proceedings of the Standing Committee shall be signed by the person who presides.

## **14. SECRETARY**

A) The Secretary of the Lodge shall conduct the general correspondence, issue



Summonses for all Meetings, record Minutes of the proceedings, keep the Members Register and Declaration Book.

B) 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 the next Regular Meeting of the Lodge, prepare an inventory of articles, books, and records of the Lodge and sign the name, countersigned by the Worshipful Master and Immediate Past Master and place the same before the Standing Committee for its inspection and information.

C) The Secretary shall also keep in safe custody all records and take charge of the Lodge Seal.

D) The Secretary shall make payments for petty contingent expenses for which purpose he shall receive an advance of not more than Rs.1000.00 from the Treasurer from time to time.

E) The Secretary shall be the Ex-Officio Secretary to all Committees.

## **15. TREASURER**

A) The Treasurer shall have charge of and be responsible for the money and account books of the Lodge.

B) The Treasurer shall receive all collections and remit the money in the bank from time to time.

C) The Treasurer shall not keep more than Rs.1000.00 at any time on hand.

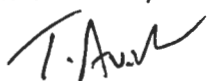
D) The Treasurer shall make no payments save on the authority of the Worshipful Master or the Officers in charge of the Lodge.

E) The Accounts shall be opened in the name of the Lodge in a Scheduled Bank approved by a Resolution at the Installation Meeting.

F) All cheques must be signed by the Treasurer and either the Worshipful Master or the secretary

## **16. DRESS REGULATIONS**

All Members of the Lodge shall wear black closed-collar coats, black pants and black shoes, or black lounge suits with white shirts and appropriate Masonic ties/bow ties or, military uniform while attending any Meetings, either Regular or Emergency, except those meetings held in the months of January, May or June, when the Members, with the permission of the Master, may wear white full-sleeved shirts with appropriate Masonic ties/bow ties, black pants and black shoes. In such Meetings, the Members are required to bring their black jackets with them, to be worn at the time of toasts, if any.



## **17. PROPOSITIONS**

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 made. The said motion shall be included in the Summons. However, the Worshipful Master and the majority of the Brethren shall have the power to enable any urgent proposition of importance to be raised and put to vote of the Lodge. No question once decided shall be raised again without the permission of the Worshipful Master or until three months shall have elapsed since the last decision.

## **18. CONSTITUTIONS**

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.

## **19. BYE LAWS**

A) It shall not be competent for the Brethren to abrogate, amend, and to or alter these Bye Laws, unless the abrogation, amendment, addition or alteration shall have been duly proposed and seconded at one Regular Meeting, approved at the next Regular Meeting and thereafter, confirmed at the following Regular Meeting of the Lodge, and, approved by the R.W., The Regional Grand Master of the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern Indian and the M.W, The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India.

B) 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 obtaining approval from the R.W, The Regional Grand Master of the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India and the M.W, The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India.

C) 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 duly adopted at the Consecration Meeting of the Lodge held on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

*T. Anand*



*R. Srinivasan*

R.W. Bro. Srinivasan Vaidyanathan  
(Founder Senior Warden)

*G. Rajagopalan*

R.W. Bro. G. Rajagopalan  
(Founder Junior Warden)

*R. S. Jagtiani*

R.W. Bro. Ramesh S Jagtiani  
(Founder Worshipful Master)

*T. Avinash*

Bro. Avinash Naidu  
(Founder Secretary)

Approved by R.W. the Regional Grand Master

Place: Chennai

Date: 25.1.2019

*R. W. Bro. Abraham Markos*

R.W. Bro. Abraham Markos  
(Regional Grand Master)

Approved by M.W. the [redacted] Grand Master

Place: NEW DELHI

Date: 22.02.2019

*[Signature]*

(Grand [redacted] Secretary)