

THE
BY-LAWS
OF THE
LODGE PANDYAN No. 49 G.L.I.
ON THE

Roll of the Grand Lodge of Ancient,
Free and Accepted Masons of India

MEETING AT
FREEMASONS' HALL, CHOKKIKULAM, MADURAI
TAMIL NADU
SOUTHERN INDIA



THE BY-LAWS OF THE LODGE PANDYAN No. 49 G.L.I.

Without due order and decorum, harmony cannot be preserved nor the business of masonry properly conducted; therefore at the stroke of Master's gavel profound silence shall be observed.

Original By-laws were approved in open Lodge on 03-03-1962 and confirmed in open Lodge on 07-04-1962.

A.J. MASTER	-	W.M.
K.V. RAGHAVAN	-	S.W.
J. TURNER	-	J.W.
A. WATT	-	Secretary

Approved:

S.T. SRINIVASA GOPALACHARI,
THE REGIONAL GRAND MASTER,
REGIONAL GRAND LODGE OF
SOUTHERN INDIA, MADRAS
08-06-1962

Approved by the:

M.W. THE GRAND MASTER
M.P. DUBE
Ag., GRAND SECRETARY,
NEW DELHI - 1.
10-06-1962

I. MEMBERS

1. The subscribing members of the Lodge shall be divided into four categories:
 - a) Resident,
 - b) Out-station,
 - c) Non-resident and
 - d) Life Members.
2.
 - a) Resident Members shall be those who normally reside within the revenue districts of Madurai, Ramanathapuram.
 - b) Out-station Members shall be those who normally reside within the jurisdiction of the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India except the revenue districts of Madurai, Ramanathapuram.
 - c) Non-resident Members shall be those not falling under the above two categories.
 - d) Serving members shall be those who are elected as such in accordance with the provisions of Rule 145 of the Book of Constitutions.
 - e) Honorary Members shall be those who are elected as such in recognition of the services rendered to Masonry in general or to this Lodge in accordance with the provisions of rule 141 of the Book of Constitutions.
 - f) Life Members are those who pay a minimum subscription of eight years in a lumpsum. They must have been a member of this Lodge for a period of not less than twenty years and must have completed fifty years of age.

II. MEETING

3. The regular meetings of the Lodge shall be held at the Masonic Temple, Freemasons' Hall, Madurai on the first Saturday of all the months in the year except in the month of May.
4. The expenses of an Emergency meeting shall be defrayed by the Brother or Brethren on whose account the Lodge is summoned in addition to the dispensation fee, if any. But when an emergency meeting is called for the Lodge purposes all expenses shall be defrayed from the Lodge.

III. PROCEDURE AT MEETING

5. Any number of amendments duly proposed and seconded may be made to any proposition, in which case, the amendments shall be put first and if they are negatived the original proposition shall be put to vote; if any amendment is carried, the proposition as amended shall be put to the Lodge.

IV. DUES AND FEES

6. The fees and subscription payable to the Lodge shall be as follows:

6 (a) Subscription for each year:

- i) Resident Member - Rs 600/-
- ii) Outstation member - Rs 550/-
- iii) Non Resident member- Rs 400/-

fees as are payable by the Lodge for each of their subscribing Member to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India and Grand Lodge of India.

- iv) Life member - one time payment - Rs. 5000/-.

- b) Initiation fees - Rs. 2500/-
- c) Joining fees from Indian Constitution - Rs. 1000/-
- d) Joining fees from other constitution - Rs. 2000/-
- e) Rejoining fees - Rs. 1500/-
- j) Installation fee of honour payable by and devoted to the Charity Funds of the Lodge.
 - i) W M - Rs. 250/-
 - ii) S W - Rs. 100/-
 - iii) J W - Rs. 100/-
- g) Fee for an emergency Meeting - Rs. 50/-
- h) Entrance fee for Madurai Masonic Trust - Rs. 25/-

and all fees shall also be payable in advance.

8. All sums payable by members under By-law No. 6 (i) & (j) and 31 and 32 shall be charged to their respective accounts and considered as "Dues". While the Fee under By-law No. 6 (j) shall become payable along with the Initiation or Joining Fee, the Dues under By-law No. 6 (i) shall become payable along with the first payment of subscription of the lodge each year. Sums payable under By-laws No. 31 and 32 shall be payable within the next month.

V. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS & MEMBERSHIP

9. a) No candidate for Initiation or Joining or Rejoining can be proposed unless the form containing the particulars of the candidate has been deposited with the Secretary atleast fifteen days prior to the regular meeting of the Lodge at which the candidate is to be proposed.
- b) No candidate for Initiation or Joining or Rejoining be balloted for unless the prescribed fees shall have been previously paid and the prescribed forms duly filled in by the candidate with all other consequential documents, if any, have all been previously deposited with the Secretary.
10. No candidate for Initiation or Joining or Rejoining shall be admitted, if, on the ballot, two black balls appear against him. No rejected candidate shall be again proposed until six months have elapsed.
11. If a candidate for initiation is not initiated within twelve English Calendar months after the date of ballot at which he was elected, his election shall be void.
12. In the event of rejection of the Candidate for Initiation or Joining or Rejoining or deferred Initiation for over twelve English Calendar months, the Admission fees previously paid shall be returned.
13. A member desirous of terminating his membership of the Lodge shall tender his resignation in writing, or orally in open Lodge and he shall be entitled to the certificate mentioned in the Rule 150(a) and (b) of Book of Constitution, stating the circumstances in which he left the Lodge.

14. No Brother, who has resigned or has been excluded for non-payment of dues, shall be permitted to rejoin unless he shall have paid up all dues and unless he is again repropounded and seconded and balloted in the usual course.

15. a) Except with the special permission of the Master or unless recommended by the Committee for General Purposes no proposal shall be brought forward for consideration by the Lodge unless it is proposed and seconded in the Open Lodge at the regular meeting or is given in writing to the Secretary duly proposed and seconded fifteen days prior to the next regular meeting. With the exception noted above, no proposal shall be considered in the Lodge unless it has been notified in the summons for the meeting concerned.

b) Whenever it shall happen that the votes are equal upon any question to be decided by a majority either by ballot or otherwise, the Master in the Chair or the Warden ruling the Lodge shall have a second or casting vote.

VI. ARREARS OF DUES

16. When the subscription of a member remains unpaid within six months from the beginning of the year, he shall be ineligible to vote or propose or appointed or elected to office.

VII. NOTICES AND SUMMONSES

17. a) Notices and summonses which it shall be requisite to send to any member shall be deemed sufficiently served, if sent through ordinary post to the last known address of a member. Every notice of exclusion or intended exclusion shall be sent through registered post for acknowledgement due.

b) All change in addresses shall be invariably notified to the Secretary in writing by the members, directly they occur.

VIII. ELECTION OF MASTER AND TYLER

18. The Master and the Treasurer shall be elected by ballot and the Tyler by show of hands at the regular meeting in December of every year. The Master elect shall be installed at the next Regular Meeting in January.

IX. COMMITTEE FOR GENERAL PURPOSES

19. A committee for General Purposes consisting of the Master, Wardens, Past Masters, Treasurer and Secretary of the Lodge for the time being and two members elected at the regular meeting in January shall conduct all business of the Lodge superintend the finance and the properties of the Lodge and consider any other subject relating to its interest. It shall meet at least once a month when summoned by the Master (three to form a Quorum) and the result of its proceedings shall be reported at the regular meeting of the Lodge.

X. ANNUAL AUDIT COMMITTEE

20. At the Regular meeting in December of each year the Lodge shall appoint the Audit Committee consisting of three members. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall attend the meetings of the Audit Committee.

21. The duties of the Audit Committee shall be:

- a) To inspect and to take inventory of the property of the Lodge mentioning its state and condition.
- b) To examine the Secretary's books and audit the Treasurer's accounts.

- c) To draw up a report of the result of their examinations and of the working of the Lodge during the past year: in this respect they may suggest any matter tending to promote the welfare of this Lodge.
- 22. The report of the Audit Committee shall be submitted to the Lodge at the regular meeting in January of each year before the installation of the Master, which after being read shall be entered in the minutes book and printed and distributed for the information of the Brethren.
- 23. Any suggestions made in the Annual Audit Report must be put to the Lodge in the shape of a proposition duly seconded, approved by the Brethren and confirmed before being carried into effect.

XI. SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- 24. a) There shall be constituted a committee on admission of new candidates, consisting of the Master and Two Brethren elected in the open Lodge at the installation meeting in January each year. It shall be the duty of this committee to consider and report to the Lodge on all proposals for membership.
- b) There shall be constituted a Committee designated as "Premises Committee" consisting of the Master and two Brethren elected in the open Lodge at the installation meeting in January each year. It shall be the duty of this Committee to inspect and report to the Lodge the condition of the buildings, fixtures, fittings, appurtenances, land garden well, etc., at the regular meeting in February or March every year and report the nature of repairs, renovations, etc., that are required and the cost of carrying out such

repairs, renovations, etc. They should also carry out such repairs, renovations, etc. as may be approved by the Lodge and report to the Lodge the nature extent and cost of such repairs renovations, etc., carried out. The Committee shall maintain proper registers detailing the nature of repairs carried out and the amount expended for the same from time to time.

- c) The Lodge may at its discretion nominate other committees for the conduct and consideration of the special subjects consisting of not less than three members, a Past Master being included, if possible, three to form a quorum. The results of its proceedings shall be reported at a Regular meeting of the Lodge and any suggestions made must be put to the Lodge in the shape of propositions as in By-law No. 25.

XII. WARRANT PREMISES, FURNITURE, ETC., OF THE LODGE.

- 25. a) The Jewels, Regalia, Archives and all properties of the Lodge (a list of which shall be kept by the Secretary) shall vest in and be under the absolute control of the Master and Wardens for the time being in trust for the members of the Lodge but shall not be sold or otherwise disposed off, except by resolution of the Brethren in open Lodge assembled, regularly proposed, carried and confirmed. No property of the Lodge including the premises shall be lent or hired except for purely Masonic purposes.
- b) The Management of the Guest Room in the Lodge premises shall be under the direction of the Committee for General Purposes and governed by

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- b) The Management of the Guest Room in the Lodge premises shall be under the direction of the Committee for General Purposes and governed by

such rules as may be formed by that Committee from time to time.

- c) The Worshipful Master shall appoint at the Installation meeting every year a member preferably a P.M. as the librarian who shall be in charge of the Library attached to the Lodge and his duties will be to maintain proper records of the Library, to suggest to the Lodge necessary improvements and in general to evoke interest of the members to make full use of the Library.

XIII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

TREASURER

- 26. a) All monies due to or held for the Lodge shall be paid or remitted to the Treasurer direct, who shall without undue delay deposit the same in an account or accounts opened in the name of the Lodge at a Bank or Banks approved by resolution of the Lodge. The Lodge funds so deposited with the Bank or Banks will be subject to withdrawals against joint signatures of the Master and the Treasurer.
- b) Except for routine expenses no sum of money shall be expended by the Treasurer without the sanction of the Lodge.
- c) He shall keep cash account of all receipts and disbursements and a ledger account for each member, which later shall be open for inspection of the member to whom it relates on application to the Treasurer.
- d) He (treasurer) shall maintain separate accounts for the General Funds and each and every other Special Fund that may be in existence or may be set up

from time to time; and also as far as possible deposit them in separate accounts with Bank or Banks as may be approved by the Lodge.

- e) The accounts shall be made up by him and audited by the committee appointed under By-law No. 20. He shall also prepare the annual Balance Sheet and present it to the Audit Committee (for this purpose the English Calendar year shall be taken to be the Official year of the Lodge.)
- f) The Treasurer shall at each meeting report the names of the members who are two half-yearly in arrears.

26 (g) The Treasurer shall at the beginning of December of each year, transfer from the General Fund of the Lodge to the following funds of the Lodge and the Institution concerned.

26 (g) i) Rs 25/- per member per year for the number of Resident and Outstation members of the Lodge as on the rolls of the Lodge as on that date to the Charity Fund

26 (g) ii) Rs 40/- per member per year for the number of Resident and Outstation members of the Lodge as on the rolls of the Lodge as on that date to the Building Fund of the Lodge.

26 (g) iii) Rs 100/- per Resident member per year as on the rolls of the Lodge as on that date to the Stewards Fund of the Lodge.

iv) Rs. 2000/- from out of the admission fee of the Initiates to the Lodge Pandyan Masonic Charitable Hospital.

v) Rs. 500/- from out of the joining fee of the members of the Indian Constitution to the Lodge Pandyan Masonic Charitable Hospital.

vi) Rs. 1500/- from out of the joining fee of the members of the other Constitution to the Lodge Pandyan Masonic Charitable Hospital.

vii) Rs. 1000/- from out of the rejoining fee to the Lodge Pandyan Masonic Charitable Hospital

SECRETARY

27. a) The Secretary shall issue summons to all the members, of the Lodge at least seven days prior to each Regular Meeting setting forth all the business to be entered upon; the amount of dues, if any, for each Brother shall be entered on his summons.
- b) He shall keep proper minutes of the proceedings of the Lodge.
- c) He shall keep Register, which shall give full particulars concerning all the members of the Lodge as required by the Rule 121 of the Book of Constitutions. He shall prepare for the signature of the Master all necessary and regular returns required by the Grand Lodge of India and by the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India.
- d) All letters from the members shall be addressed to him.
- e) He shall keep a list of all Lodge properties.
- f) He shall be ex-officio member and Secretary of all Committees and Special Committees appointed by the Lodge sending out notices.

STEWARDS

28. a) The Stewards shall have charge of all Lodge furniture and Regalia and shall see that the Tyler keeps them in good order and provides everything requisite in the Lodge. They shall see that the Lodge is always

properly prepared for meetings and shall make the necessary arrangements about refreshment, banquet etc.

- b) The chairman of the stewards committee or in his absence the senior Steward available or in his absence any member appointed by the Master for that purpose shall arrange for subscribed and other dinners, lunches and or refreshments and in case of subscribed dinner etc., he shall draw necessary funds from the Treasurer to meet the cost of food and refreshments to Resident Members as enumerated in By-law No. 31 (a) while in case of other members and visiting Masons, he shall collect necessary charges forthwith.
- c) The Chairman of the Stewards Committee or the member in charge of the Subscribed dinner etc., shall forthwith submit an account to the Treasurer for the amount expended by him from out of the Stewards Fund.

THE TYLER

29. The Tyler shall take care of and keep in good order the Lodge Furniture, Regalia etc. He shall prepare the Lodge before meetings and shall see that every person whether member or visitor enters his name in the Attendance Book previous to his admission to the Lodge.
30. a) The Tyler if happens to be a serving brother, shall be paid a fees of Rs. 5/- for each meeting attended and his dinner charges also shall be paid from out of the General Funds of the Lodge.
- b) The Tyler if he happens to be subscribing member of the Lodge, the Lodge may resolve that the

payment to his services be equivalent to the subscription of the Lodge, so long as he serves the Office of the Tyler.

30A. The Tyler need not be a member of this Lodge in accordance with Rule 93 of the Book of Constitutions.

XIV. BANQUETS, REFRESHMENTS ETC.

31. a) All expenses connected with the subscribed banquets, dinners, lunches and refreshments with respect to Resident members after regular meetings of the Lodge (except those mentioned in sub clause (b) below) shall be borne from out of the Stewards funds of the Lodge. Charges for other members shall be borne by them. Charges for the visiting Masons shall be paid by the member inviting them. For Lodge Guest payments shall be made under such arrangements as may be made from time to time by Lodge.
- b) The above arrangements with respect to Resident members shall not include festive boards in connection with meetings held elsewhere, emergency meetings and special meetings, Ladies' night and such other meetings get together or gatherings for which charges will become payable extra.
- c) Arrangements for subscribed food and refreshments will be provided only for such brethren resident head quarters or otherwise who intimate the Secretary or the Chairman of the Stewards' Committee three clear days prior to the respective meetings.

XV. ALMS (Charity Fund)

32. Before closing at each meeting Regular or Emergency the Master may direct the Charity box to be circulated in order that all the Brethren present may deposit free will offerings.
33. The sum collected shall be kept separate from the Lodge funds and appropriated to such charitable purposes as the Brethren in the Lodge may direct.

XVI. RELIEF

34. A sum of Rs. 50/- shall be held at the disposal of the Master annually to meet urgent cases of distress but every case so relieved shall be intimated to the Brethren at the next Regular Meeting and all ordinary cases of distress shall be presented duly attested in the open Lodge.

XVII. MISCELLANEOUS

35. The Attendance Register shall be signed by members present as well as by the visiting Brethren prior to entering the Temple.

XVIII. BY-LAWS

36. Every member of the Lodge initiated in or joining the Lodge shall be presented with a printed copy of the By-laws free of charge. The By-laws shall be read in the open Lodge once every year and such other time as the Master think it proper.
37. No alteration, addition or amendment shall be made to these By-laws unless moved and seconded in the open Lodge, due notice of such motion having been sent in the Summonses to each member nor shall such alteration or amendment be considered, carried unless two-thirds of the members present vote in its favour.