

**BY-LAWS OF**

***R. A. M. Lodge Gurdial Gill***

**No. 31**

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**As amended as on 24-12-93**

**Meetings**

1. The Lodge shall meet on the first Thursday in the months of January, April, July and October at the Freemasons' Hall, Madras at 6-30 p.m. or at such time as the Worshipful Commander may fix.

2. An Emergency Meeting may be held at any time when duly summoned by command of Worshipful Commander or the Officer-in-Charge of the Lodge.

3. Every Summons for a regular Meeting or for an Emergency Meeting shall be sent by the Scribe to all the members of the Lodge seven clear days before the day of regular meeting and three clear days before the day of Emergency meeting.

4. The Summons shall contain a notice of all business to be transacted at such meeting. At an Emergency Meeting only the business set forth in the Summons shall be transacted. At a Regular Meeting,

the Worshipful Commander may at his discretion, permit any business not given notice of in the Summons, to be transacted if it appears to him to be of urgency or importance.

### Management

5. The affairs of the Lodge shall be managed by a General Committee consisting of the Worshipful Commander (who shall be the President of the Committee), the Wardens, all Installed Noahs, the Treasurer, the Scribe and two members elected by the Lodge. The election of members shall take place at the Installation Meeting in July.

6. This Committee shall consider such matters specifically referred to by the Lodge, deal with applications for membership, and prepare an Annual Report on the state of the Lodge, which shall be submitted to the Lodge for approval at each Installation meeting. The Committee shall meet at least once in every quarter and its proceedings shall be read in open Lodge at the next Regular Meeting. Three members shall form a quorum.

7. The Scribe shall conduct all the general business and correspondence of the Lodge. He shall keep record in a Minutes Book of the business transacted at every Regular and Emergency Meeting of the Lodge and read the same for confirmation at the next Regular Meeting. He shall maintain in a separate book a record of the meetings of the General Committee. He shall keep a register of all members of the Lodge. He shall carefully preserve all the registers and records of the Lodge. He shall be entrusted with a sum not exceeding Rupees Twenty-five for contingent expenses for which he shall render periodical accounts to the Treasurer.

8. The Treasurer shall have charge of and be responsible for the moneys and account books of the Lodge. He shall enter the details for moneys received and paid out, in appropriate books of account. He shall collect the subscription and other dues, if any, from members and deposit them in the name of the Lodge in a Bank approved by resolution of the Lodge. He shall have authority to pay as and when they fall due all routine expenses of the Lodge such as G.M.I. and R.G.L. dues, rent and

electricity charges, Warder's fees, and sundry expenses. All other payment shall be made only on the authority of the Lodge, of the Worshipful Commander or the Officer-in-Charge of the Lodge. At the Installation meeting he shall place before the Lodge the accounts written upto 31st March previous audited and certified as correct by the Audit Committee.

9. The Worshipful Commander and Treasurer shall be elected annually by ballot and the Warder chosen by show of hands at the Regular Meeting in April. The Worshipful Commander-elect shall be Installed and he shall he appoint and invest the following Officers and no more at the next Regular Meeting in July: Senior Warden; Junior Warden; Chaplain Treasurer; (elected) Scribe; Director of Ceremonies; Senior Deacon; Junior Deacon; Organist; Guardian; Stewards and Warder (closed)

10. An Audit Committee of two members shall be elected by the Lodge at the Installation meeting who shall audit the accounts of the Lodge for the year and certify its correctness.

### **Admission of Members**

11. A Mark Master Mason desirous of being Elevated to this Degree may either be proposed and seconded at a Regular Meeting of the Lodge, or an application duly signed by his proposer and seconder may be sent to the Scribe at least fifteen days before the meeting and the proposal shall be included in the Summons for the next Regular Meeting. The full name of the candidate, his age, calling, place of abode, the name and number of the Mark Lodge of which he is or was a member and the names of the proposer and seconder must appear in the Summons for the Meeting at which the ballot is to take place. He shall produce for inspection before the ballot is taken his Grand Lodge Certificate as Mark Master Mason and a Clearance Certificate from each of the Mark Lodges of which he is or was a member, stating that his dues have been paid in full. He shall also pay on being ballotted the fees stipulated in By-Law 16 as well as his subscription for the current quarter.

12. If a Brother who is a Royal Ark Mariner is desirous of joining the Lodge, he must be pro-

posed and seconded at a Regular Meeting of the Lodge. His full name, profession or occupation, place of abode, the name and number of the R.A.M. Lodge of which he is a member, must be set forth in the Summons for the Meeting at which the ballot is to take place. He must produce his Royal Ark Mariner's Certificate and a Clearance Certificate from the Lodge of which he is or was a member stating that his dues have been paid in full; He must also pay before ballot the fees stipulated in By-Law 16 as well as his subscription for the current quarter.

13. The Lodge shall not proceed with the ballot for Elevation or Joining unless the Scribe has reported that the documents mentioned in the foregoing By-Laws have been produced.

14. No Brother shall be Elevated in, or admitted a member of the Lodge, if on the ballot more than two black balls shall appear against him. In the event of an unfavourable ballot, the candidate shall not be proposed again until after the lapse of six months from the date of his rejection.

15. In all cases where the votes of the Brethren on any proposition are equal the Worshipful Commander shall have a second or casting vote,

### **Fees. Subscription etc.**

16. The following fees shall be payable to the Lodge :

	Rs.
For Elevation	500 100 00
For Joining from a Lodge under the Constitution	500 100 00
For Re-joining	500 100 00
For re-joining from a Lodge of a recognised Constitution	500 100 00
For Emergency Meeting (payable by the Brother/s for whose convenience the meeting is held)	100 00

Annual subscription payable in advance Rs. 500/- in addition to the annual subscription, the annual dues payable to Regional Grand Mark Lodge and Grand Mark Lodge at the prevailing rates by the Members.



### **Retirement of Members**

17. If any Brother allows his subscription to remain in arrears for four quarters, the Scribe shall advise him of the amount due by registered post and if the full amount is not paid off within thirty days from date thereof he shall be liable to Exclusion under Article 109 of the Book of Constitutions.

18. Brethren desirous of retiring from the Lodge may notify the same either verbally in open Lodge or by letter, to the Scribe. If a Brother fails to observe this rule he shall be liable for his subscription until such notice is given.

### **Propositions**

19. Every proposition for consideration by the Lodge shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another.

20. Amendments, duly proposed and seconded, may be moved to any proposition. Amendments shall be put to the vote first, and if negatived the original proposition shall be put to

vote, but if the amendment is carried the original proposition shall be deemed to have been lost.

21. No proposition shall be considered at a meeting unless notice of it had been given at the previous Regular Meeting, or forwarded in writing to the Scribe for inclusion in the Summons at least fifteen days before the date of the Meeting at which the proposition is to be considered; but the Worshipful Commander shall have power to admit a proposition for consideration if he considers it of importance or urgency, even though previous notice as aforesaid had not been given.

22. Every member must address the Worshipful Commander standing and in the manner usual amongst Royal Ark Mariners. No member shall speak more than once on the same subject. The proposer shall have the right of reply.

23. It shall not be competent to the Lodge to abrogate, alter or amend these By-Laws unless the abrogation, amendment or alteration shall have been moved in open Lodge at one meeting, considered and passed at the next Regular meeting

and confirmed at the subsequent Regular meeting Approval must then be obtained in accordance with Rule 87 of Book of Constitution.

24. Every member, on admission, shall be presented with a copy of the By-Laws and his acceptance thereof shall be deemed a submission thereto.

25. At Every Regular and Emergency meeting of the Lodge, the charity bag shall be circulated.

These By-Laws were considered and adopted on the date of Censecration, 22nd April 1966.

(Sd.) S. T. SRINIVASA GOPALACHARI,  
W.C.N.

(Sd.) R. GANESH. S W.

(Sd.) E. P. B. MANIAN, J.W.

(Sd.) V. L. NARASIMHA RAO, Scribe

Approved by me on 22nd April 1966.

(Sd ) S. T. SRINIVASA GOPALACHARI

Regional Grand Mark Master, Southern India.

Approved by M. W. The Grand Master on  
22nd April 1966.

(Sd.) P. M. SUNDARAM,  
Grand Secretary.