

By Laws of
Lodge Fidelity No. 449
Grand Lodge of India

12 AUG 2017

I. CONSTITUTION

1. GENERAL: These Bye laws are to be read and interpreted in conjunction with the relevant Rules and Provisions, as prevalent in "The Book of Constitutions" of The Grand Lodge of India and "The Bye Laws" of the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India.
2. NAME & STYLE: The Lodge shall be Named and Styled as Lodge Fidelity No. 449 GLI, duly constituted under the Laws of the Grand Lodge of India.
3. a) PLACE & DATE OF MEETING: The Regular Meeting of the Lodge shall be held at Chettinadu Mansion, 11, Ar. Street, Kanadukathan, Karaikudi – 630103, Tamil Nadu, South India on the 2nd Monday of the months of –JANUARY, APRIL, JULY and OCTOBER
4. EMERGENCY MEETINGS of the Lodge may be called and held at any time by the authority of the Worshipful Master after due dispensation is applied for and obtained from the RGLSI b) Summons convening the Regular / Emergency meeting shall be dispatched electronically to the last confirmed email ID of each subscribing member with copies circulated to the GLI and RGL secretariat in addition to the statutory mailing list to be advised by the GLI/RGLSI from time to time at least One Month before the date of such meeting
5. OFFICERS: The office bearers of the Lodge shall consist of Worshipful Master, Immediate Past Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Chaplain, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Assistant Secretary, Assistant Director of Ceremonies, Inner Guard, Stewards and Tyler.
6. REGULAR MEETING DAY: The regular meeting of the Lodge shall be held on the 2nd Monday of the months of JANUARY, APRIL, JULY and OCTOBER

MEMBERS: The Lodge shall consist of Regular and Honorary Members.

II. CANDIDATES

7. CANDIDATES: Every candidate for initiation or Brother for joining or re-joining must be proposed and seconded by members in good standing at a Regular Meeting of the Lodge. All candidates shall meet with the Screening/Membership/Membership Committee, which after due examination, shall submit its recommendations to the Standing Committee. All such candidates' names shall be included in the summons for the next regular meeting in accordance with the requirement stated in the Book of Constitutions and the recommended received by the Screening /Membership Committee must be reported upon by the Standing Committee / Lodge Secretary, before the ballot is proceeded with.

8. LIABILITY OF PROPOSER & SECONDER: The proposer and seconder shall be jointly and severally responsible for all fees payable by such brother, under these bye laws and as amended, and as enumerated under rule 146 of the Book of Constitution of The Grand Lodge of India.

III. BALLOT AND VOTING

9. BALLOT: The secrecy of the Ballot shall be held strictly inviolate, and when a Ballot taken either for initiation of a candidate or joining or re-joining of a Brother, unless a minimum of simple majority of the members present approve the proposal, the proposition of such candidature or brother shall not be accepted.

V.K. Jayakumar

10. REJECTED CANDIDATES: A candidate who has been rejected by ballot, shall not be again eligible to be proposed for a period of twelve months from the date of rejection by ballot.

11. VOTING WHEN DEBARRED: Any member whose subscription is in arrears for 12 calendar months shall be debarred from balloting or voting on any question before the Lodge and from making any proposition.

12. VOTING BY PROXY: No member shall be permitted to vote by proxy.

IV REGULAR AND HONORARY MEMBERS

13. REGULAR MEMBER: Any ordinarily resident citizen of India who is eligible and has been duly proposed and balloted for Joining/Initiation in the Lodge shall be designated a Regular Member.

14. HONORARY MEMBER: An Honorary Member shall be elected by Ballot as per applicable Rule 142 of the Book of Constitutions after notice of such election is placed in summons. However, consent of the brother on whom the Honorary Membership is to be conferred shall be received by the Lodge prior to balloting.

V. FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

15. a) The following shall be payable to the Lodge by the members. ANNUAL subscription shall be payable in advance.

Subscription Fee Rs.1000 + GLI Dues and RGLSI Dues

Joining / Rejoining Fee of Rs. 3000/-

b) In addition to the annual subscription all annual dues to the GLI and RGLSI as may be fixed from time to time and applicable shall be payable by each Brother.

c) The subscription is payable in advance each year in the month of December

d) A Candidate for Joining at any time during the year shall pay the full annual subscription along with the **Initiation fees of Rs. 4000/-**.

e) Honorary members, if any, are not liable to pay any subscription / fees.

f) The structure of the actual fee chargeable to be duly proposed and decided in the Standing Committee and voted for in the regular meeting of the Lodge and is automatically reviewable once every two years within the framework provided.

16. As part of the monthly subscription, the Lodge shall pay for and provide Grand Lodge Certificate to every Master Mason, Installed Master's Certificate to all the Installed Masters, dues to Grand Lodge and Regional Grand Lodge.

17. Should the subscription of a member of the Lodge remain unpaid for one full year, the Secretary will send a notice to him requesting settlement within one month from the date thereof. If the payment is not received as stipulated the Treasurer and Secretary would report to the Standing Committee. The Committee in turn may take recourse to these bye laws and recommend to the Lodge at the next regular meeting to exclude the said member under Rule 144 of the Book of Constitutions.

18. The member shall provide transaction details to the Treasurer in case the funds are transferred to the Lodge account by any means other than by cheque.

V.K. Gopal

19. The funds received by the Lodge will be maintained under the following heads :

General Account

Charity Account

Steward's Fund (under the General Fund)

20. GENERAL FUND: The amounts other than those of Charity Fund, shall constitute General Fund. The funds held in the General account are to be used to meet the operational expenses of the Lodge like GLI, RGL dues, Printing & Stationery etc. Any amount in excess of Rs.20,000 (Rupees Twenty Thousand only) of these funds in the Bank accounts may be placed, either in short or long term fixed deposits as decided by the Standing Committee. Any fixed deposit of the General Fund may be encashed and appropriated to other accounts after the same is approved in the open Lodge by the majority of brethren in good standing present at the meeting.

21. CHARITY FUND: The Charity fund will consist of the following:

Twenty five percent of initiation, joining and re-joining fees.

Charitable collection in the meeting

20% of the annual fee collected from each member

Voluntary donations.

Interest accrued from General Fund deposits.

Other contributions from General Fund as the Lodge may determine from time to time.

22. The Charity Fund shall be solely devoted for charitable purposes. A sum of Rs. 2,000 from this fund shall be held at the disposal of the Worshipful Master, which may be utilized for any emergent cases of distress. The utilization of such funds by the Master shall be informed in the next regular meeting of the Lodge by the Worshipful Master.

23. All the funds of the Lodge will be maintained in Bank accounts in nationalized Banks or such Scheduled Banks of good standing voted by the Standing Committee of the Lodge and the Bank accounts shall be operated Jointly by the Treasurer and either of the Worshipful Master and Secretary for the time being. The office of the Treasurer will be for period of One year and will be elected in the ~~annual~~ meeting of the Lodge to be held in ^{October} ~~of~~ every year. In the event of withdrawal from office by any of them during the course of the Masonic year, the Lodge upon the recommendation of the Standing Committee shall nominate another member to take over that vacated office for the balance of the term to ensure continuity as would be required.

24. BANQUET FEE: It shall be within the powers of the Lodge to levy a special fee, on all members on any occasion on which a banquet or other entertainment should be given, such as in the case of the reception of Regional Grand Lodge or Grand Lodge or other Masonic functions.

VI. PROPOSITIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

25. PROPOSITIONS: No proposition shall be entertained until it has been duly seconded; and when a motion has been duly made and seconded, the opinion of the Brethren present who may wish to speak thereon shall be taken before it is put to vote; but no vote shall be taken on any proposal where due notice has to be given in the summons, as stipulated in the Book of Constitutions. This By-Law shall not have reference to the subject matter pertaining to correspondence brought up by the Secretary, subject to the discretionary powers of the Worshipful Master.

V.K. Gupta

26. MEMBERS RIGHT TO SPEAK: No member shall be entitled to speak more than once upon any question before the Lodge, except strictly in explanation; but the member shall have the right of reply, after all the members, who may wish to do so, shall have addressed the Lodge.

27. ADDRESSING LODGE: Whenever a Brother may have occasion to speak in Lodge, he shall do so standing, in order, and shall address his remarks to the Worshipful Master in calm and decorous language.

28. DISCUSSIONS: To preserve the harmony of the Lodge, the Master shall have the discretionary power, at any stage of a discussion, to stop it being proceeded with.

29. RESOLUTION: Any resolution passed in the open Lodge shall be binding on all the members of the Lodge.

VII. ELECTION & INSTALLATION

30. ELECTION OF MASTER, TREASURER AND TYLER: The Worshipful Master, Treasurer and Tyler shall be annually elected by ballot, at the Election Meeting in October.

31. DATE OF INSTALLATION: The Worshipful Master shall be duly installed at the Regular Meeting or any convenient date in the month of January.

VIII. SECRETARY

32. SECRETARY'S DUTIES: The Secretary shall issue the summonses for, and record the Minutes of, keep the Register of Members, conduct all the general business and correspondence of the Lodge, keep record of the proceedings of all meetings (regular and emergency) and those of the Committees of the Lodge in the minutes book and read the same at the next regular meeting for confirmation. He shall maintain in a separate book a record of all the meetings of the Standing Committee. He shall also maintain

a Membership Register and preserve all records, files, documents etc., of the Lodge and discharge such other duties as may be delegated to him by the Worshipful Master.

IX. TREASURER

33. DUTIES OF THE TREASURER: The Treasurer shall have charge of and be responsible for the money and account books of the Lodge. He shall enter details of the money received viz., subscriptions and other dues and of all payment made in the appropriate books of account... The Treasurer shall at every Standing Committee and regular meetings submit and read in open Lodge the Statement of Accounts 34. FUNDS WITH THE TREASURER: He shall collect all dues and fees and deposit all sums in

collected by him, in the Bank in the name of the Lodge with such Banks as may be decided by the Lodge. Funds in excess of Rs.20,000 shall ideally be kept in Fixed/Term Deposits. All cheques must be signed by the Treasurer and either the Secretary or the Worshipful Master. The Treasurer shall provide bank details to the members so as to enable them to remit dues/ subscriptions online. The Treasurer shall not pay any moneys of the Lodge, except its current expenses, the Statutory dues/levies and as otherwise provided for, without the direction of the Master and the brethren in the Lodge assembled.

X. TYLER 35. TYLER'S DUTIES: A subscribing member shall be elected as a Tyler of the Lodge. The Tyler shall prepare the Lodge for the meeting, and see that every brother whether a member or visitor, is properly clothed before entering the Lodge

V.K. Gupta

XI. AUDIT COMMITTEE

AUDIT COMMITTEE: An Audit Committee shall be elected by the Lodge at the Election Meeting in October each year, which shall consist of A Chairman and Two Members from among the subscribing Members of the Lodge

The audit committee shall verify and audit the annual statement of accounts of the Lodge, certify them in accordance with Rule No. 129 of the Book of Constitutions after due examination of the accounts of the Lodge and submit their report before being circulated to the members.

XII. STANDING COMMITTEE

36. STANDING COMMITTEE: There shall be a committee styled the "Standing Committee" of the Lodge, which shall consist of the Worshipful Master, the IPM, all brethren who are Past Masters of and in the Lodge, the Senior and Junior Wardens and two other Brethren who shall be duly elected by the Lodge at the installation meeting held in January each year. Any FIVE of the said Standing Committee shall constitute the quorum.

37. PRESIDENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE: The Worshipful Master shall be the President, and the Immediate Past Master the Vice-President, of the Standing Committee, and in their absence the senior most Brother present shall preside.

38. STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING: The Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Standing Committee, when requested to do so by the Master.

39. DUTIES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE: The duties of the committee shall include consideration of the application of Candidates for Initiation, joining and re-joining the Lodge, Deliberate on matters pertaining to the agenda for the meetings, submission of other committees, inspect and monitor the accounts and properties of the Lodge and report on matters leading to the improvement of the Lodge and its members.

40. REFERENCE TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE: The Worshipful Master is hereby authorised and empowered to refer to the Standing Committee, for consideration and report at any stage, any matter or proposition that may be brought before the Lodge, previous to putting the same to vote and on the Worshipful Master's reference to the same, all discussions thereon in the Lodge shall immediately cease.

41. RULES FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEE: The Rules of Decorum for Lodge discussion shall also apply to discussions before the Standing Committee, the Presiding Officer whereof, for the time being, shall be entitled to the same respect as the Worshipful Master in the Lodge.

42. STANDING COMMITTEES REPORT/ MINUTES: The minutes of the standing committee shall be recorded by the Lodge Secretary or in his absence by the Secretary designate, and the same may be circulated electronically to all the members by email, the same will also be recorded/pasted in minutes register maintained for such purpose. At the regular meeting of the Lodge following that at which any reference has been made, the Secretary shall confirm to the Worshipful Master that the minutes has been so circulated and it may be considered, after which its adoption or rejection shall be decided upon in the usual way on a motion duly made and seconded.

43. STANDING COMMITTEE'S POWER: The Standing Committee is hereby authorised and empowered to summon any member to give information on any matters referred to it by the Lodge.

V.K. Jyoti

XIV. VISITORS

44. VISITOR: Every Visitor must be well vouched for or required to produce his Grand Lodge Certificate and undergo an examination.

XV. LODGE PROPERTY

45. LODGE PROPERTY: Property of every description belonging to the Lodge shall be vested in the worshipful Master and the Wardens for the time being, in trust for the Lodge, except as may be otherwise provided for.

46. INVENTORY: An inventory of the whole of the Lodge property shall be entered into a book, which shall be verified by the Worshipful Master on his installation and shall be countersigned by himself and his Wardens. Such verification shall be reported in the immediate regular meeting after installation.

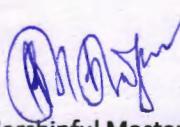
47. JEWELS: The Warrant, Jewels and Working Tools belonging to the Lodge, shall be in charge of the Worshipful Master, or of such other Officers as he may appoint.

XVI. BYE-LAWS

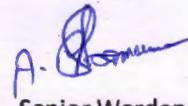
48. BYE-LAWS: These Bye-Laws shall be read in the open Lodge at such time as the Worshipful Master may think proper or at least once a year, and each newly initiated or joining or re-joining brother shall be furnished with a copy.

49. ALTERATION OF BYE-LAWS: The Bye-Laws or any portion of them shall not be altered without the sanction of a Two-thirds majority of the members present at a Regular Meeting of the Lodge, notice of the proposed alteration being given at the previous Regular Meeting and circulated with the Summons of the Regular Meeting at which it is to be considered and confirmed at the next Regular meeting and approved by R.W. the Regional Grand Master and M.W. the Grand Master.

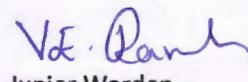
Certified that these By-Laws were duly adopted at the Consecration and meeting of Lodge Fidelity, No. 449 held on Saturday 21st January 2017 at Salem



Worshipful Master



Senior Warden

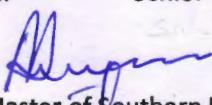


Junior Warden



Secretary

Approved by

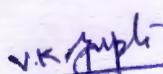


Regional Grand Master of Southern India

Place: CHENNAI

Dated: 31-07-2017

Approved by



V.K. Gupta

M.W. the Grand Master, Grand Secretary

Place: NEW DELHI

Dated: 08.08.2017