

BYE LAWS

OF

LODGE MOUNT CHARITY

NO. 232

G.L.I. CHENNAI

(As amended upto 01.01.2011)

MEMBERS

1. The Members of the Lodge shall comprise of three: classes, namely Resident, Non-Resident and Honorary.

EXPLANATION :

- a) Resident Members are those who ordinarily reside within Postal Divisions of Chennai.
- b) Non-Resident Members are those who ordinarily reside beyond the postal Divisions of Chennai and placed on the list of non-resident Members.

- c) Honorary Members are those elected as such by the Lodge in accordance with Rule 142 of the Book of Constitutions.
- 2. Any Resident Member, who ceases to reside within the postal divisions of Chennai may be placed by the Lodge 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 such an application is received.
- 3. Non-Resident Members, who reside within the postal divisions of Chennai for less than three consecutive calendar months shall be transferred to the list of resident Members with effect from the calendar month next after the month in which the three months period is completed.
- 4. In case of transfer of Members from the Resident to Non-Resident list or vice versa a change in the rate of subscription will be effected from the month following

MEETINGS

- 5. The regular Meetings of the Lodge shall held at Freemasons Hall Chennai-600 008, on the Second

Thursday of every month, at such hour as may be directed by the Master from time to time.

EMERGENCY MEETINGS

- 6. Emergency Meetings of the Lodge may be held for the purpose mentioned in the Book of Constitution and in accordance with the provision thereof.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION MEETINGS

- 7. a) The Master shall annually be elected at the Regular Meeting of the Lodge in August and shall be installed at the next Regular Meeting in September.
 - b) All other officers except the Treasurer and Tyler will be appointed by the Master.
- 8. The Treasurer and the Tyler shall also be elected at the Regular Meeting in February.

SUBSCRIPTION AND FEES

- 9. The following shall be the scale of fees:

Fee for Initiation: : Rs. 1000.00

Joining from a Lodge under the Grand Lodge of India : Rs. 500.00

Joining from a Lodge under other Constitutions	:	Rs. 800.00
Re-joining fee	:	Rs. 500.00
Every Initiate shall pay a Steward fee of	:	Rs. 500.00

The above fees are payable in advance on Initiation or Joining or Rejoining.

11. The subscription payable shall be as follows

Resident Member	:	Rs. 750.00 per annum
Non-Resident Member	:	Rs. 375.00 per annum
Honorary member	:	Nil

Plus the Annual dues to the Grand Lodge and the quarterages to Regional Grand Lodge on prevailing rates in the respective years and other levies prescribed by the Grand Lodge and the Regional Grand Lodge from time to time.

Subscription shall be payable in advance at the beginning of the each year commencing on 1st of March and is not inclusive of dinner charges. Honorary members shall not be liable to pay any fees to the Lodge.

12. In case an emergency meeting is held for the sole purpose of conferring a degree at the request of and for the convenience of a candidate the Lodge may require from such candidate the entire expenses towards conduct of such meeting.

ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

13. Applications for initiation or Joining or Re-Joining shall be deposited with the Secretary at least four weeks before the Meeting at which the candidate is to be proposed and seconded.
14. No person shall be considered for being admitted as a member of the Lodge unless and until the Membership Committee of the Lodge has considered and reported to the Lodge upon the character, qualifications and general desirability of the candidate proposed for Membership.
15. No candidate for initiation or joining shall be initiated or balloted for until he has signed a declaration as set forth under Rules 137 and 138 of the Book of Constitutions and has been duly proposed and seconded and all fees thereof have been paid. However, a candidate desirous of becoming a joining member from a Lodge under the Grand Lodge of India need not sign the declaration under rule 138 of the Book of Constitution.
16. A candidate for initiation or a Brother desirous of joining or rejoining the Lodge shall not be accepted unless, if on the ballot two thirds of the members present and voting in the Lodge approve the proposal for such candidature in cases of doubt, the Master may immediately cause a second ballot to be taken and if it proved unfavourable, it shall be final. In every case, the secretary shall communicate the result of the ballot to the candidate. In all cases of unfavourable ballot the fees shall be returned at the time information is furnished.

17. A candidate or a brother rejected on ballot shall not be eligible to be proposed again until after expiry of six months from the date of such rejection.

EXCLUSION

18. Any member, whose subscription remains unpaid for one year after it has become due shall be deprived while so in default of being appointed and elected to offices and he shall further be liable for exclusion in accordance with provision contained in Rule 156 of the Book of Constitutions

19. Any member, who has been excluded under Bye-law No.17 may be permitted to rejoin, provided he is regularly proposed and balloted for in accordance with Rule 138 of the book of Constitution and has also paid all arrears due by him and the prescribed fees for rejoining.

RESIGNATION

20. Any Member of the Lodge may resign his membership by notifying such resignation by a written notice to the secretary or by declaration in open Lodge.

The resignation shall take effect in accordance with Rule 158 of the book of Constitution. Any member, who has resigned his membership, will be permitted to re-join on payment of re-joining fee and arrears due, but shall be subjected to a fresh ballot.

DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

21. a) The Secretary of the Lodge shall conduct the general correspondence, issue summonses for all meetings, record Minutes of the Lodge and of all Committee Meetings, keep the Membership Register and Declaration book and hold custody of all properties of the Lodge.

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 all articles, books and records of the Lodge and sign the same, counter-signed by Master and Immediate Past Master and place the same before the permanent Committee for its inspection and information

c) He shall also keep in safe custody all records and take charge of the Lodge seal.

d) He shall make payments for petty contingent expenses for which purpose he shall receive imprest from the Treasurer of not more than Rs.100/- from time to time.

DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

22. i) All monies due to or held for the Lodge shall be paid or remitted to the Treasurer directly, who shall without undue delay deposit the same in an account or accounts in the name of the Lodge.

- ii) All cheques must bear the signature of the Treasurer and Master of the Lodge.
- iii) The Treasurer shall regularly enter a complete record of all monies passing through his hands in the proper books of accounts.
- iv) The account of the Lodge shall be held under the following heads.
 - a) General Fund
 - b) Reserve Fund
 - c) Charity Fund
 - d) Stewards Fund

The Lodge may, by resolutions, constitute such other Funds as may be necessary for specific purposes.

- v) The Treasurer shall at every Regular Meeting submit and read in open Lodge a Monthly statement of accounts.
- vi) The Treasurer shall also prepare a statement of accounts annually made up as on the day of the election meeting in August showing the exact financial position of the Lodge and submit the same to Audit Committee in August.

DUTIES OF TYLER

- 23. The Tyler shall prepare the Lodge for the Meetings and see that every Brother, whether member or visitor is

properly clothed, previous to admission into the Lodge.

The Tyler shall also be in charge of the collars, Aprons etc, belonging to the Lodge. He shall receive for » the proper discharge of his duties a sum not less than Rs.50/ for every meeting or such other remuneration as the Lodge may vote from time to time. If a subscribing member is elected as the Tyler of the Lodge he shall not be entitled to any such remuneration.

PROPOSITIONS

- 24. a) No motion unless it is purely formal or technical shall be raised at any regular meeting of the Lodge and not 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 considered. The said motion shall be included in the summons, provided the Master shall have the power to allow any urgent proposition of importance to be raised and put to the vote of the lodge.
- b) in the case of a tie, the Master shall have the right of a casting vote, which shall decide the ballot.
- c) No question once decided shall be raised again without the permission of the Master or until 6 months has lapsed.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE

25. The Master, Immediate Past Master, Present Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies, present Deacons. Inner and Chaplain shall constitute the permanent Committee. Five members shall form the Quorum.

It shall be the duty of this 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 general questions affecting the Lodge.

The Master if present shall preside and in his absence the Immediate Past Master or in his absence senior Most Brother present shall preside. The permanent Committee shall meet prior to the regular meeting of the Lodge at least once in a month excepting in the months of May and June.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

26. The Lodge shall elect at the installation meeting a Membership Committee of two members for the purpose of considering and reporting to the Lodge upon the Character of the candidates proposed, for membership of the Lodge.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

27. At the Installation Meeting of the Lodge every year the Lodge shall elect an Audit Committee consisting of two

members to verify and audit the Annual statement of Accounts prepared by the Treasurer under Rule 129 of the Book of Constitution. It shall be the duty of the committee to submit at the installation Meetings an annual report on the financial position of the Lodge.

RELIEF

28. A sum of Rs.50/- from the General funds of the Lodge shall be placed at the disposal of the Master to meet emergent cases of distress. In case the Master shall think fit to take advantage of this Bye-Law, he shall report the circumstances at the next Regular Meeting of the Lodge.

SUMMONS AND NOTICES

29. Summons of notice which is to be sent to any member shall be deemed sufficiently served, if sent through post to the address stated unless the Secretary is duly notified of the change of address by the member concerned in the Membership Register.

CONSTITUTIONS

30. In respect of matters not specifically and expressly provided for in the Bye-Law, the Laws and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of India as embodied in the Book of Constitution shall apply.

BYE-LAWS

31. a) It shall not be competent for the brethren to abrogate, amend, add to or alter these bye-laws, unless the abrogation, amendment, addition or alteration shall

have been approved of at one Regular Meeting of Lodge and approved by the R.W. Regional Grand Master of Southern India and the M.W. The Grand Master.

- b) In the event of any abrogation, amendment or revision of any bylaw or Bylaws, the Secretary, shall provide each member with a copy thereof " after approval by the R.W. Regional Grand Master of Southern India and The M.W. The Grand Master.
- 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.

Adopted unanimously at the consecration and Constitution of the Lodge on Jan 6th, 1978.

M.S. EKAMBARAM
W. Master

C.M. GOPAL
Senior Warden

R. RAMACHANDRAN
Junior Warden

SP. SRINIVASAN
Secretary

Approved by RW. The Regional Grand Master
Chennai
Dt. : 19.01.1978

A.S. RAJASABAI
Regional Grand Master

GRAND LODGE OF INDIA
Approved by the M.W. The Grand Master
New Delhi,
Dt.10.02.1978

C.D. NATARAJAN, M.P.
Grand Secretary