

By-Laws

Lodge Meridian No.287 G.L.I.

I. Preliminary :

1. These By-Laws are subject to and in addition to the Rules contained in the Book of Constitutions so far as the said Rules relate to the Daughter Lodges.

II. Membership :

2. There shall be two classes of members viz.,

- (a) Regular Members
- (b) Honorary Members

3. Regular Members : Regular Members are those founder members and those Master Masons who are regularly admitted or re-admitted to the Membership of the Lodge and those initiated into the craft from time to time.

4. Honorary Members : Honorary Members are those Master Masons duly chosen by the Regular Members for outstanding services rendered to Masonry in general or to this Lodge in particular.

III. Meetings :

5. There will be 10 Regular meetings every year commencing from July, being the installation meeting and ending in June being the election meeting. The regular meetings will be held on the 3rd Saturday of every month except in the month of May and December.

6. The meetings will be held at the Masonic temple, Coimbatore.
7. The hour of commencement of the meetings shall be fixed by the Master from time to time.
8. Summons for convening the regular meetings of the Lodge shall be issued by the Secretary not less than seven clear days prior to the date of each meeting and shall specify the place and Hour of the meeting.
9. The Master may direct the Secretary for convening emergency meetings of the Lodge with not less than seven clear days besides obtaining dispensation from RGL of SI without fail.

IV. Admissions and Retirement of Members :

10. Any member desirous of proposing for joining any Master Mason shall communicate to the secretary his desire in the form of a letter containing biodata and such particulars as are necessary to assess the suitability of the Master Mason proposed.
11. Within seven days of receipt of the said letter, the Secretary shall forward it to the standing committee and the standing committee shall within fifteen days after its receipt, forward to the secretary its recommendation regarding the suitability or otherwise of the proposed Master Mason for joining.
12. If the recommendation of the standing committee is against the joining, the secretary shall inform the members who sent the letter referred into clause (1) above, and the said Master Mason shall not be reconsidered for joining for a period of twelve months from the date of the said letter.

13. If recommendation of the standing committee is in favour of the joining, the secretary shall within seven days after the receipt of the report, inform the member who sent the letter referred to in clause (10) above, and the said member shall send or cause to be sent a proposal for joining.
14. A proposal for joining a Master Mason as a Regular Member shall be in the prescribed form, duly filled in and signed by not less than two regular members and sent to the secretary within thirty clear days prior to each regular meeting and shall be accompanied with the joining fee.
15. A proposal so made shall be included in the Agenda for the said meeting and in that meeting, the joining shall be proposed and recorded and in the next regular meeting the proposal shall be balloted. If the ballot be not taken in the said meeting, the proposal shall be void.
16. The proposal shall be deemed to have been rejected if in the said balloting two or more black balls appear against the proposal and within ten days after rejection, the secretary shall refund the joining fee to the proposed.
17. Any Master Mason whose joining has been rejected under clause (16) above, shall not be again proposed for joining until atleast six regular meetings after the meeting in which the ballot was taken.
18. The membership shall cease :
 - a. by resignation or
 - b. by death or

- c. by non-payment of subscription before the end of fiscal year i.e. 30th June.
- 19. The procedure for rejoining of a Member who has ceased to be a member under sub-clauses (a) and (c) of clause (18) above, shall be laid down in clauses (10) to (17) above, provided that the member seeking such rejoining has paid all arrears not less than fifteen days prior to the regular meeting in which the proposal is to be made and recorded.
- 20. No member shall seek to propose more than one name for joining, rejoining or initiation at one time.
- 21. Any member desirous of proposing for initiation any candidate shall communicate to the Secretary his desire in the form of a letter containing such particulars of the said candidate as are necessary to assess the candidate's suitability.
- 22. Within seven days of the receipt of the said letter, the secretary shall forward it to the standing committee and the standing committee shall within 15 days after receipt of the same, forward to the secretary its recommendation regarding the suitability or otherwise of the candidate for initiation.
- 23. If the standing committee's report is against the initiation, the secretary shall inform the member who sent the letter referred to in clause (21) above and the same candidate shall not be considered for the initiation for the period of twelve months from the date of the said letter.
- 24. If the committee's report is in favour for initiation, the secretary shall within seven days of receipt of the standing Committee's recommendation, inform the Member shall send or cause to be sent for a proposal.

- 25. A proposal for initiation shall be in writing and signed by not less than two regular members and shall contain the particulars required of the candidate as well as the proposer and seconder in the prescribed form of a application. The proposal shall be sent to the secretary not less than thirty clear days prior to each regular meeting and shall be accompanied with the initiation fee.
 - 26. A regularly made proposal for initiation shall be included in the Agenda for the said meeting and in that meeting the proposal shall be made and recorded and in the next regular meeting the proposal shall be blotted. If the ballot be not taken in the said meeting the proposal shall be void.
 - 27. The proposal for initiation shall be deemed to have been rejected, if, in the said ballot, two or more black balls appear against the proposal, within ten days after the rejection the Secretary shall refund the initiation fee to the proposer.
 - 28. Any candidate whose initiation has been rejected under clause 27 above shall not again be proposed for initiation until after atleast six regular meetings after the meeting in which the ballot was taken.
 - 29. When the candidate is not initiated on the date of his election, the date of such election shall be stated on the summons for the meeting at which the initiation is to take place. If the candidate is not initiated within one year after his election the election shall be void.
- V. Subscription and fees :**
- 30. A member shall pay an annual subscription of Rs.250/- and an amount of Rs.440/- per annum towards steward's charges

both payable before 30th November every year, otherwise the amount payable will be treated as arrears. If such arrears are not cleared before 30th June every year, the membership will cease under rule 124 of B of C.

the initiation fee shall be Rs.1000

The joining fee shall be Rs.500

The rejoicing fee shall be 500

31. A minimum sum of Rs.500/- shall be paid towards Past Master's Relief Fund by every brother who passes through the Eastern chair.
32. Expenses of any emergency meeting and dispensation fee, if any due to the G.L. and R.G.L. shall be defrayed by the brother or brethren at whose instance the meeting is held or dispensation obtained.
33. A sum of Rs.200/- from the General Fund of the Lodge shall be annually placed at the disposal of the Master to meet emergent cases of distress.
34. In case the Master exercise this privilege, he shall report the circumstances at the next regular meeting of the Lodge. Otherwise the sum shall, at the close of the year, be carried to the charity fund.
35. All ordinary cases of distress shall be submitted for discussion in open Lodge.
36. A sum of Rs.200/- from General Fund of the Lodge shall be paid to the Secretary as imprest cash to meet petty expenses

and shall be reimbursed by the Treasurer on the Secretary rendering to him the accounts of such expenses.

37. The steward fund consisting of the steward charges collected from the regular members shall be maintained separately. No part of the General or Charity funds of the Lodge shall be diverted towards these funds.
38. The financial year will be from 1st July to 30th June.

VI. Elections :

39. The Master and Treasurer shall be elected and the Tyler chosen at the regular meeting in June and the Master installed at the next regular meeting in July.
40. At the Installation meeting in July a standing committee consisting of Master, IPM, Warden, Secretary, Treasurer and Director of Ceremonies and two other elected members shall be formed.
41. At the Installation meeting in July, the Lodge shall also elect an audit committee consisting of two members of the Lodge.

VII. Charity

42. The Charity Box shall be circulated during all Lodge Meetings. The Charity Funds of the Lodge shall be kept separate from the General Funds of the Lodge and all expenditure of Charity shall be defrayed from these funds. The Lodge may by resolution authorise transfer of such sums so may be deemed necessary from the General Fund to the Charity Fund but not vice versa.

VIII. Duties of Standing committee and officers :

43. The duties of the standing Committee shall be to examine the secretary's check all the properties of the Lodge, to make confidential enquiry regarding Master Masons seeking admission and candidates for the initiation and to make recommendation regarding the suitability or otherwise of the Master Masons or the candidates for admission or initiation as the case may be delegated to it from time to time by the Master.
44. The Secretary shall conduct all the General business and correspondence of the Lodge. He shall issue summons for, or notices of the meetings of the Lodge or Committees, record the minutes of their processings and keep the Register of Members and all other Registers Book, and records except the accounts. He shall promptly prepare the Returns for the Grand Lodge and the Regional Grand Lodge and forward them through the Master together with all the fees and contributions due thereon.
45. The Treasurer shall receive all monies paid or remitted to him and without undue delay, deposit the same in an account in the name of Lodge at a Nationalised Bank to be approved by a resolution of the Lodge. the Treasurer shall make such payments as are duly authorised or have been sanctioned by the Lodge. All cheques must be signed by any to two of the following viz. the Master, the Treasurer and the Secretary. The Treasurer shall regularly enter a complete record of all monies passing through his hands in the proper books of accounts which shall be the property in his possession, shall be transferred to his successor upon investiture. He shall prepare a statement of account as at the 30th day of

June every year, the statement of accounts shall be verified and audited by the Audit committee. Copies of the accounts and of the certificate by the Audit committee that all balances have been checked and the accounts have been duly audited shall be circulated to all members of the Lodge together with the summons convening the meeting to be held in the month of June each year at which the said accounts shall be considered. The books of accounts shall be produced for inspection in open Lodge at such meeting or on other suitable occasion also if requested by a resolution of the Lodge.

46. All communications from the Member shall be addressed to the Secretary.

IX. General :

47. The control of the property of the Lodge shall be as laid down in rule 119 of the B of C (1989).
48. No motion shall be made or discussed in the Lodge which is not mentioned in the summons unless the Master directs otherwise.
49. No question once decided in open Lodge shall be raised again without the permission of the Master until after 3 regular meetings.

X. Amendment of the Bye-Laws :

50. i. These by-laws shall not be amended otherwise than as laid down hereunder :

- ii. A proposal to amend shall be in writing and signed by not less than three regular members and sent to the secretary not less than 30 clear days prior to each regular meeting.
- iii. The said proposal, if regularly made, shall be included in the Agenda for the said meeting and in that meeting, the proposal shall be read and recorded.
- iv. In the next regular meeting, the proposal shall again be included in the agenda and shall be discussed and balloted.
- v. The proposal shall be deemed have been passed by a majority of the members present at the meeting casting their ballot in favour of the proposal.
- vi. The amended by-laws passed by the Lodge shall be confirmed at the next regular meeting of the Lodge.
- vii. The proposal so passed and confirmed shall not be deemed to have been brought into effect unless approved by the P.G.M. and G.M.

Duly considered and adopted at the Consecration and Installation Meeting held on 21st March 1992.

W. Master

Secretary

Approved by R.W. The Regional Grand Master

Approved by W.W. the Grand Master

New Delhi

16.01.1996

(N.L. DUGGAL)
Grand Secretary

(Amendments to V approved in Jan 2002 & VI in 2003)