

**BY-LAWS
OF
MARK LODGE OM VIGHNESWARA
NO.63
MADRAS**



1996

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(This edition includes amendments made upto February 1996)

MARK LODGE OM VIGHNESWARA NO.63

By-Laws

Under authority granted by the Grand Mark Lodge of India, dated 2nd June, 1984, a Lodge of Mark Master Masons, under the name and style of Mark Lodge Om Vighneswara No.63 shall be held at Freemasons' Hall, 87, Ethiraj Salai, Madras - 600 105.

1. Membership :

Members shall comprise of only two classes, viz : Subscribing Members and Honorary Members.

2. Meetings :

(a) Regular Meetings of the Lodge shall be held at the Freemasons' hall, 87, Ethiraj Salai, Madras - 600 105, on the 4th Mondays in the months of February, May, August and November every year, at such hour as may be directed by the Master for each such meeting.

(b) Emergency meetings of the Lodge may at any time be called by the authority of the Master and the business to be transacted at such Meetings shall be strictly in accordance with Rule 90 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of India.

Any fee charged shall be to the account of the person/persons on whose behalf the Emergency Meeting is to be held.

Summons convening the Regular/Emergency Meeting shall be despatched by the Secretary to all members of the Lodge at least seven clear days before the date of such meeting.

3. Election and Installation Meetings :

The Master shall be elected annually at the Regular Meeting of the Lodge in August and he shall be installed at the next Regular Meeting in November.

The Tyler who must be a Mark Master Mason, registered as such in the books of the Grand Mark Lodge of India, shall be chosen each year at the Regular Meeting of the Lodge in August as a Serving Brother and invested as such at the Installation Meeting in November.

He shall be paid a remuneration of Rupees Fifty for every meeting he attends, or such other remuneration as the Lodge may vote from time to time.

4. Admission of Members :

(a) A Master Mason desirous of being Advanced may either be proposed and seconded at a Regular Meeting of the Lodge or an application duly signed by the Proposer and Secunder may be sent to the Secretary at least Twenty-one days before the appointed day of the Meeting. Such a proposal/proposals shall be included in the Summons for the next Regular Meeting giving full particulars of the candidate/candidates in accordance with Rule 98 of the Book of Constitutions.

(b) In the case of Joining or Re-joining, the Candidate shall be proposed and seconded at a Regular Meeting and ballotted for at the next Regular meeting, the Summons in respect of which shall clearly spell out the full particulars as required by Rule 98(C) of the Book of Constitutions.

(c) A Candidate for Advancement or joining not already registered in the Books of the Grand Mark Lodge of India shall, before the ballot is taken, sign the Declaration as in Appendix A.

(d) A Candidate for Joining or Re-joining who is already registered in the Books of the Grand Mark Lodge of India shall, before the ballot is taken, sign the Declaration as in Appendix B.

(e) Before the ballot for Advancement/Joining/Re-joining is proceeded with, secretary of the Lodge shall satisfy himself that he has taken care of the Provision of Rule 99 of the Book of Constitutions.

5. Ballot :

No Brother shall be advanced or admitted as 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 repropounded until after the lapse of one year from the date of rejection.

6. Fees and Subscription :

(a) The Following shall be the scale of Fees :

i) Fee for Advancement	: Rs. 300.00
ii) Fee for Joining from a Lodge under Grand Mark Lodge of India	: Rs. 150.00
iii) Fee for Joining from a Lodge under other Constitution	: Rs. 300.00
iv) Re-joining fee	: Rs. 100.00

The above fees are p

(b) Membership subscription shall be payable in advance at Joining/Re-joining at any part together with the fee for Advancement. Honorary members are not liable.

7. Exclusion :

If any brother allows the secretary shall advise him of the amount is not paid within Thirty Rule 109 of the Book of Constitutions.

8. Resignation :

Any brother desirous of withdrawing, verbally, in open Lodge, or by written notice, shall take effect from the date on which it is given. Any member who has resigned will be permitted to Re-join on payment of Re-joining fee and any arrears due, but shall be subjected to fresh ballot.

9. Duties of Officers :

(a) Secretary : The Secretary shall conduct all the general business and correspondence of the Lodge; he shall keep record of the proceedings of the Meetings in the Minutes Book at Every Regular and Emergency Meeting of the Lodge and read the same at the next regular meeting for confirmation. He shall maintain in a separate book a record of meetings of Permanent and Audit Committees. He shall maintain a Membership Register and preserve all records, files, documents, etc., of the Lodge. He shall be entrusted with a sum of Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two Hundred) for contingent expenses for which he shall render accounts to the Treasurer periodically.

By-Law No. 6 (b)

Membership subscription will be Rs 600/- per annum plus Grand Mark Lodge and Regional Grand Mark Lodge dues. Membership Subscription shall be payable in Advance at the beginning of the Year. Candidates for Advancement Joining/Re-Joining at any part of the year, shall pay the full annual subscription together with the fee for Advancement, Joining/Re-joining as the case may be. Honorary Members are not liable to pay any fees

(b) Treasurer : He 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, in the appropriate books of account and shall deposit, without any delay, such sums of money as have been received, in an account standing in the name of the Lodge. All payments above the sum of Rs. 100.00 (Rupees One hundred only) shall be made only by cheque under the signature of the incumbent Treasurer. He shall have authority to pay all routine expenses of the Lodge such as dues to Grand Mark Lodge of India, Regional Grand Mark Lodge of Southern India, Premises rent, Electricity charges, Tyler's fee, as and when they fall due. But all other payments shall be made by the authority of the Lodge.

For the first Installation Meeting, Accounts of the Lodge drawn upto 31st January previous shall be presented, duly audited and certified by the Audit Committee, but for subsequent Installation Meetings, Accounts of the Lodge drawn upto 31st October previous shall be presented. Notwithstanding the above, the Treasurer shall at every Regular Meeting submit and read in open Lodge a monthly Statement of Accounts.

(c) Tyler : The Tyler shall prepare the Lodge for the meetings, and see that every brother, whether a member or visitor, is properly clothed before entering the Lodge. He shall be in charge of the Warrant, Collars, Aprons, Jewel etc. of the Lodge.

10. Permanent and Audit Committees :

(a) The Master, Immediate Past Master, Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies and two members elected at the Installation meeting shall form the Permanent Committee.

(b) Two members shall be elected at the Installation meeting to form the Audit Committee.

(c) It shall be the duty of these Committees to check the accounts, make arrangements for the meetings and ceremonies thereof and consider all matters related to the working of the Lodge, inspect and check all properties belonging to the Lodge and to report on matters leading to the improvement of the Lodge. The Master shall preside at the Meetings, and in his absence the I.P.M. and in his absence the Senior-most Brother present. The Permanent and Audit Committees shall meet twice in a year and, in any case, one clear month prior to date of Installation meeting, to finalise accounts and arrange for presentation of the same in due time.

11. Proposition :

(a) Every proposition for the consideration of the Lodge shall be proposed by one member and seconded by another. No proposition shall be considered at a meeting unless notice of it had been given at the previous meeting or forwarded in writing to the Secretary at least 21 days ahead for inclusion in the Summons before the meeting at which the proposition is to be considered.

(b) In all cases where the votes of Brethren on any proposition are equal, the Worshipful Master shall have a second or casting vote.

12. By-laws :

(a) Every member, on admission, shall be presented with a copy of the By-laws of the Lodge and his acceptance thereof shall be deemed his submission thereto.

(b) The By-laws shall be read in open Lodge at least once in a year.

(c) It shall not be competent to the Brethren of the Lodge to abrogate, amend, or alter these by-laws unless the abrogation, amendment or alteration shall have been moved in open Lodge and are confirmed at the immediately subsequent Regular Meeting and thereafter approved by the R.W. Regional Grand Mark Master of Southern India and the M.W. Grand Mark Master of the Grand Mark Lodge of India.

(Signed)

W. Master

(Signed)

Senior Warden

(Signed)

Junior Warden

(Signed)

Secretary

duly adopted at the consecration meeting of the Lodge on 2-8-1984 Approved by
R.W. Regional Grand Mark Master of Southern India.

Madras

Date : 18.03.1996.

(Signed)

REGIONAL GRAND MARK MASTER,

GRAND MARK LODGE OF INDIA,

Approved by the M.W. The Grand Master

New Delhi

Dated : 10.4.1996

(Signed)

Grand Secretary

Appendix - A

(Declaration to be signed by a candidate for advancement or a candidate for Joining not already registered in the Book of Grand Mark Lodge of India)

TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER, WARDENS, OVERSEERS AND MEMBERS OF THE MARK LODGE OM VIGHNESWARA, NO.63.

I, _____, do declare that should I be admitted as a member of the above Lodge, I hereby solemnly pledge myself to maintain and uphold the supremacy of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of India, to pay strict obedience to its Constitutions and Laws and to conform to all the ancient usages and established customs of the order. I further solemnly promise to submit to, and observe, the by-laws of the Lodge from time time made for its government.

Witness my hand, this _____ day of _____

Witness _____

Appendix - B

(Declaration to be signed by a candidate for Joining or Re-joining who is already registered in the Book of the Grand Mark Lodge of India)

TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER, WARDENS, OVERSEERS AND MEMBERS OF THE MARK LODGE OM VIGHNESWARA, NO.63.

I, _____, do declare that should I be admitted as a member of the above Lodge, I will submit to and observe the By-laws of the Lodge from time to time made for its government.

Witness my hand, this _____ day of _____

Witness _____