



Founder Members of Lodge Arcot No.377 with MW the Grand Master, MW Bro. Dr. B. Biswakumar and
RW Bro. R. Sushil Raj, on Consecration Day.

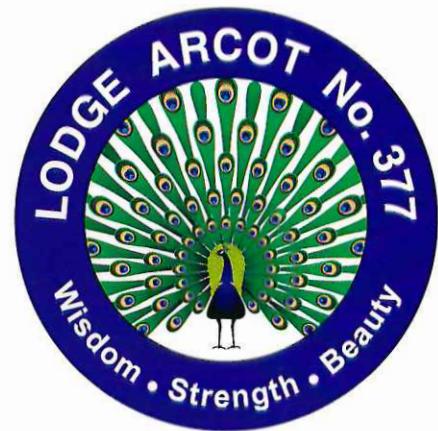
LODGE ARCOT No. 377

Vellore

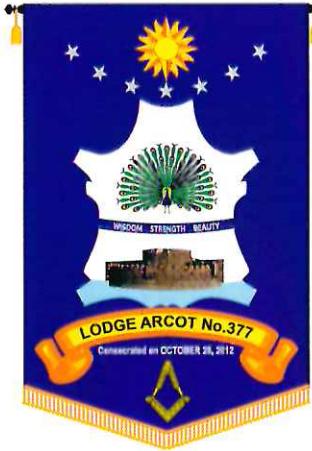
(Under Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of India)

Warranted on 12th October, 2012

Consecrated on 28th October, 2012



BYE-LAWS



Explanation of the Banner

Banners are a necessity in all Masonic Lodges and each banner has some special features to mark its identity. The pillars, the sun and the moon, the squares and compasses, the checkered floor, the All-Seeing Eye and such other symbols are constituents of a Lodge banner. Besides them, there are certain special and peculiar features of this Lodge banner. This banner, presented by the brethren of the sponsoring Lodge, **Lodge Accountants No.194**, has the appropriate colour of craft masonry, blue, as the basis. The special feature of this banner is the *Lamb Skin*, denoting innocence and purity. The significance of depicting lamb skin is because this place Vellore and its satellite towns like Ambur and Vaniyambadi are world famous for high quality hides and skin and thus relates to the importance of Vellore.

On top of the banner is the *Blazing Sun*, that great luminary of nature, which disperses the clouds that obscure the horizon. It is the destroyer of the gloom and harbinger of knowledge and wisdom. At the bottom is the *Vellore Fort*, built about 500 years ago and which has withstood the ravages of time and attempts of destruction. It signifies strength and may our fraternity in general and this Lodge in particular withstand the turbulences and difficulties and live forever. In the middle is our national bird *Peacock* in dancing pose, which signifies beauty.

Thus the slogan of the Lodge, Wisdom, Strength and Beauty are figuratively represented.

The Seven Stars below the sun signify perfection and may this Lodge be perfect in all its parts.

In essence, the banner represents the tools in masonry, our urges and aspirations and the Masonic resolve in defense of all that is good and sublime and worthy of preserving and sustaining. Let it ever remind us and those who follow us to keep on drawing the necessary inspiration from it and prove worthy of the fold.

– Authored by **R.W. Bro. K. Gopal**



LODGE ARCOT No. 377

(Under Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of India)
Consecrated on 28th October, 2012

BYE-LAWS

PREAMBLE

It is necessary for the good government and well being of every institution and lawfully organized society that Rules and Regulations shall be framed for the guidance of its Members. The Master, Wardens and the Members of **LODGE ARCOT No. 377**, for the purpose of preserving that harmony which should always distinguish Freemasons, do hereby establish and agree to the following Bye-laws under Rule 111 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of India, which contain nothing inconsistent with the Laws contained in the Book of Constitutions of Grand Lodge of India.

LODGE ARCOT has been founded in Vellore under the Warrant dated the 12th day of October 2012 (corresponding to the 20th day of Asvina 1934 Saka Era) from the Grand Lodge of India and the Lodge was consecrated and constituted into a Regular Lodge, by M.W. Bro. Capt. Dr. Balaran Biswakumar, OSM, M.W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India, on Sunday, the 28th October 2012 and is assigned the No. 377 on the roll of the Grand Lodge of India.

MEMBERS

1. The Members of the Lodge shall comprise of two classes, namely Subscribing and Honorary Members.

a) Subscribing Members :

All the Founder Members and those members ordinarily residing within the limits of District of Vellore as well as those residing elsewhere but initiated into or joined or rejoined the Lodge as per the provisions of Book of Constitution.

b) Honorary Members :

Any brother of good Permanent and worthy of such distinction by reason of his service to the Craft or to the particular Lodge who is or within the previous year, has been a subscribing member of a Regular Daughter Lodge, may be elected as such by the Lodge in accordance with Rule 142 of the Book of Constitutions.

MEETINGS

2. The Regular Meetings of the Lodge shall be held at Hotel Darling Residency, Vellore on the Third Sunday of every month, except in the months of April, May and June or at such other place and time as the Master may fix from time to time.

EMERGENCY MEETING

3. Emergency Meeting of the Lodge may be held for the purposes mentioned in the Book of Constitutions and in accordance with the provisions thereof.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION MEETING

4. The Master of the Lodge shall be elected annually at the Regular Election Meeting in the month of March and shall be installed at the next Regular Meeting in the month of July.

5. The Treasurer and Tyler shall be elected annually at the Regular Election Meeting in the month of March.

OFFICERS

6. The Regular Officers of the Lodge shall be the Master, the Immediate Past Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Inner Guard and Tyler.

7. The Master may appoint as additional officers, a Chaplain, an Assistant Director of Ceremonies, an Almoner, Bearers of V of S.L., a Sword Bearer, an Organist, Assistant Secretary and Stewards and no other.

ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

8. No person shall be considered for being admitted as a Member of the Lodge unless and until the Membership Committee of the Lodge considers and reports to the Lodge upon the character, qualifications and general desirability of the candidates proposed for Membership.

9. Applications for Initiation or Joining or Rejoining shall be deposited with the Secretary at least fourteen days before the Meeting at which the Candidate is to be proposed and seconded.

10. 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 he has been duly proposed and seconded and all fees therefor 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 Constitutions.

11. A Candidate for initiation or a Brother desirous of joining or rejoining the Lodge shall not be accepted unless on ballot, at least two-thirds of the members present and voting at the meeting of the Lodge, approve the proposal for such candidature. In cases of doubt, the Master may, at his discretion, immediately cause a second ballot to be taken and if it proves unfavorable, it shall be final. In every case, the Secretary shall communicate the result of

the ballot to the candidate. In all cases of unfavorable ballot, the fees shall be returned at the time when the information is furnished.

12. A candidate or a Brother rejected on ballot for initiation or membership shall not be eligible to be proposed again until after the expiry of six months from the date of such rejection.

FEES

13. The scale of Fees payable by a candidate for Initiation, Joining or Rejoining shall be as follows :

1. Initiation :

- a) Initiation Fees payable to Lodge : Rs. 3,000/-
- b) Fees payable to GL of I : As applicable
- c) Fees payable to RGL of SI : As applicable

2. Joining from Indian Constitution :

- a) Joining fee payable to Lodge : Rs. 2,000/-
- b) Fees payable to GL of I : As applicable
- c) Fees payable to RGL of SI : As applicable

3. Joining from other Constitutions :

- a) Joining fee payable to Lodge : Rs. 2,500/-
- b) Fees payable to GL of I : As applicable
- c) Fees payable to RGL of SI : As applicable

4. Rejoining :

- a) Rejoining fee payable to Lodge : Rs. 2,500/-
- b) Fees payable to GL of I : As applicable
- c) Fees payable to RGL of SI : As applicable

The above Fees are payable in advance before Initiation or Joining or Rejoining.

14. Any Candidate at whose request, an Emergency Meeting is convened shall pay a fee of Rs. 500/- and also such other expenses

which are incurred on account of holding such Emergency Meeting.

SUBSCRIPTION

15. The Annual Subscription payable by the Members shall be as follows :

Subscribing Member	-	Rs. 1,500 per year
--------------------	---	--------------------

In addition to the above, the Members shall pay the dues payable to the Grand Lodge of India and Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India, as applicable from time to time.

Subscriptions shall be payable in advance at the beginning of each year.

The Honorary Members shall not be liable for any subscription / fees.

In addition to the Subscription as above, the Lodge may also create Stewards Fund, Almoner Fund and such other Fund, as may be necessary from time to time and collect the sums from the Members. Such creation and collection of Funds shall be duly proposed and passed by the Members in the open Lodge.

EXCLUSION

16. Any Member, whose subscription remains unpaid for six months after it becomes due, shall be liable for exclusion in accordance with the provisions contained in Rule 156 of the Book of the Constitutions.

17. Any Member, who has been excluded under Bye-Law No. 18 may be permitted to rejoin, provided he is regularly proposed and balloted for in accordance with Rule 138 of the Book of Constitutions and also pays all arrears due by him and the prescribed Fees for Rejoining.

RESIGNATION

18. Any Member of the Lodge may resign his membership by notifying such resignation by a written notice to the Secretary or

by a declaration in open Lodge. The resignation takes effect in accordance with Rule 158 of the Book of Constitutions. Any Member who has resigned his Membership, will be permitted to rejoin on payment of Rejoining Fee and any arrears due, but shall be subject to a fresh ballot.

DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

19. i) The Secretary shall conduct the general correspondence, record the Minutes of the proceedings, issue Summons for all Meetings, keep the Membership Register and the Declaration Book and prepare and submit all returns due to Grand Lodge and Regional Grand Lodge. He shall also be the Ex-Officio Secretary of the Permanent Committee.
- ii) 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, countersigned by the Master and Immediate Past Master and place the same before the Permanent committee for its inspection and information.
- iii) He shall also keep in safe custody all records and take charge of the Lodge seal.
- iv) He shall make payment for petty contingent expenses for which purpose he shall receive an advance of not more than Rs. 1,000/-

DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

20. i) The Treasurer shall collect all fees and monies due to or held for the Lodge and shall issue official receipts for the same. He shall without undue delay deposit them in an account in the name of the Lodge at a Scheduled Bank approved by a resolution of the Lodge.
- ii) The Treasurer shall keep accounts of the General Fund, the Benevolent / Charity Fund and the Stewards and other Funds of the Lodge.

All financial transactions of Lodge shall be carried out by the Treasurer, Master and Secretary. The Treasurer and any one of the other two officers, namely the Master or the Secretary shall be the joint signatories to the operation of the bank accounts of the Lodge.

- iii) All cheques must be signed by the Treasurer jointly either with the Master or with the Secretary.
- iv) The Treasurer shall regularly enter a complete record of all transactions and monies passing through his hands in the proper books of accounts.
- v) The Treasurer shall prepare a Statement of Accounts annually made up as on 30th June of each year showing the exact financial position of the Lodge and submit the same to the Audit Committee. The Treasurer shall at every Regular Meeting submit and read in open Lodge, a monthly Statement of Accounts.
- vi) The Lodge, by a resolution, may also invest its funds in Fixed Deposits or bonds in banks, Government and other recognized institutions.

DUTIES OF TYLER

21. The Tyler shall prepare the Lodge for the meetings and see that every Brother, whether a Member or a 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. In case the Tyler is a serving brother, he shall receive for the proper discharge of his duties, a sum as decided by the Permanent Committee from time to time, for every meeting attended by him.

PROPOSITIONS

22. i) No motion unless it is purely formal or technical shall be raised in the Lodge 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.

- ii) In the case of a tie, the Master shall have the right of a casting vote, which shall decide the ballot.
- iii) No question, once decided, shall be raised again without the permission of the Master or until six months have elapsed.

PERMANENT COMMITTEE

23. The Master, Immediate Past Master, present Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Ceremonies and three members elected at the Installation Meeting shall constitute the Permanent Committee.

It shall be the duty of this Committee to check the accounts, make arrangements for the meetings and consider all the matter 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, the senior-most Brother present shall preside. The Permanent Committee shall meet on such date and time as the Master may order once before each Regular Meeting.

It shall be the duty of the Committee to submit at the Installation Meeting an Annual Report containing the details of the workings, events and status of the Lodge for the year and its recommendations for the consideration of the Lodge.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

24. The Lodge shall elect at the Regular Installation meeting, a Membership Committee consisting of three members for the purpose considering and reporting to the Lodge upon the character, qualifications and the general desirability of the candidates proposed for membership of the Lodge.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

25. At the Regular Installation Meeting of the Lodge in July, every year, the Lodge shall elect two members to the Audit Committee to verify and audit the Annual Statement of Accounts prepared by the Treasurer under rule 129 of the Book of Constitutions. It shall be the duty of the Committee to submit at the Installation Meeting an Audited Statement of Accounts of the previous year for the adoption by the Lodge.

SUMMONS AND NOTICE

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

CONSTITUTIONS

27. In respect of matter not specifically and expressly provided for in the Bye-law, the Law and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of India as embodied in the Book of Constitutions and Bye-Laws of the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India shall apply.

LODGE COLOURS AND DRESS REGULATIONS

28. The Colours of the Regalia shall be Sky Blue. The members of the Lodge will attend the meetings of the Lodge in Black or Dark Suit, black shoes and black socks.

BYE-LAWS

29. i) 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 and confirmed at the next Regular Meeting of the Lodge and approved by the R. W. the Regional Grand Master of Southern India and the M. W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India.

- ii) In the event of any abrogation, amendment or revision of any Bye-Law or Bye-Laws, the Secretary shall provide each Member with a copy thereof, after approval by the R. W. the Regional Grand Master of Southern India and the M. W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India.
- iii) 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 herein.

**Adopted unanimously at the Consecration and Constitution of
the Lodge held on 28th day of October 2012 at Vellore**

R.W. Bro. **Krishnamachari Gopal**
Worshipful Master

W.Bro. Sankaran Krishnan
Secretary

Approved by R.W. the Regional Grand Master of RGL of SI

Sd/- R.W. Bro. Retna Raj Sushil Raj
R.W. The Regional Grand Master

9th December, 2012

Approved by M.W. the Grand Master of GLI, New Delhi

Sd/- R.W. Bro. **Balasubramaniam Kamakoti**
Grand Secretary
14th January, 2013

FOUNDER OFFICERS		
S.No.	NAME	Office
1	R. W. Bro. Krishnamachari Gopal	WM
2	R. W. Bro. Krishnaswamy Ramadurai	IPM
3	W. Bro. Ushanath Sethurayar	SW
4	W. Bro. Sivanandan Venkatesh Pari	JW
5	R. W. Bro. Subramoney Sankar Prasad	Chaplain
6	W. Bro. Gopalarathnam Prabhakar	Treasurer
7	W. Bro. Sankaran Krishnan	Secretary
8	W. Bro. Virinchipuram Swaminathan Kylas	D of C
9	Bro. Arcot Deenadayal Keskar	SD
10	Bro. Raghunath Sridhar	JD
11	W. Bro. Dr. Sekanoor Kumaraswamy Sadasivan	Bearer of VSL
12	R. W. Bro. Sriramineni Sridhar	Bearer of VSL
13	W. Bro. Marappa Gounder Navaneethakrishnan	Bearer of VSL
14	W. Bro. Namasivayan Ganesh	Bearer of VSL
15	W. Bro. Raman Srinivasan	Bearer of VSL
16	W. Bro. Gajraj Jothilingam	Sword Bearer
17	W. Bro. Karaikurichi Rangaswamy Adivarahan	Asst. Secy.
18	W. Bro. Thampi Kumaran Suresh Kumar	Asst. D of C
19	W. Bro. Thothala Narayanasamy Manoharan	Almoner
20	R. W. Bro. Subramaniam Swaminathan	Organist
21	W. Bro. Varadarajan Karthic	Inner Guard
22	W. Bro. Dharmapuri Ramachandran Chandramouli	Steward
23	W. Bro. Ramasamy Mahendran	Steward
24	W. Bro. Venkataraman Chandrasekaran	Steward
25	W. Bro. Joseph Vincent	Steward
26	W. Bro. Murugadas Sankaran	Steward
27	W. Bro. Gurumurthy Subbarayalu	Steward
28	W. Bro. Madurai Sreenivasulu Ravi	Tyler

FOUNDER MEMBERS

29	W. Bro. Mahadevan Kousik Ganesh
30	Bro. Rajamani Radhakrishnan
31	Bro. Aravind Srinivasan
32	R. W. Bro. Govindaswamy Ashok Mohan
33	V. W. Bro. Dr. Gangavalli Venkata Ramakrishna Rao
34	W. Bro. Natarajan Meenakshisundaram
35	W. Bro. Chinnasamy Ganesan
36	Bro. Shekar Sutrave Ramarao
37	W. Bro. Velkuru Ravindra Reddy
38	W. Bro. Meenakshisundaram Balaganesh
39	W. Bro. Sundaram Nandakumar
40	W. Bro. Sreedharan Srikanth
41	Bro. Ramachandran Balakrishnan
42	Bro. Routhu Varadananarayana Umashankar