

BYE LAWS  
OF  
KARNATAKA MASTERS  
LODGE

No. 325

# BY-LAWS of THE KARNATAKA MASTERS' LODGE NO. 325

Framed under rule 111 of the Book of Constitution of the Grand Lodge of India.

## OBJECTIVES:

1. To act as a nodal point for Freemason's of Karnataka and Goa so as to:
  - a) Promote interaction amongst its members and freemason's in the geographical jurisdiction.
  - b) Function as a research Lodge for an in-depth study and analysis of Freemasonry.
  - c) Help in propagation of Freemasonry and its ideals in Karnataka and Goa in particular and India in General.
  - d) Publish papers, magazines of Masonic interest and education for its members and Freemasons in general.

## JURISDICTION

2. To serve the geographical areas of the states of Karnataka and Goa.

## MEMBERS:

3. Membership in the Lodge will be open to Past Masters and Ruling Masters of Craft Lodges under the Grand Lodge of India, who are permanent residents, in the State of Karnataka and Goa as well as Past Masters now permanently residing in Karnataka and Goa. Such members should be subscribing members or honorary members of a craft Lodge on the date of application and the day of Joining.
4. The following shall be the categories of members
  - a. Ordinary members
  - b. Life Members (rule 142A of B/C)
  - c. Honorary members
5. Any Past master of good standing and distinction in acknowledgement of his services to freemasonry in general or this Lodge in particular may be elected an honorary member in accordance with the provisions of Rule 142 of B of C.

6. Any member who ceases to be a member of the Lodge may rejoin under the provision of by-law 3.

#### MEETINGS:

7. There shall be FOUR REGULAR meetings in a calender year. These meetings will be held in rotation in each zone of the jurisdiction of the Lodge designated as follows:

- EAST ZONE : Lodges in Bangalore and KGF
- SOUTH ZONE : Lodges in Coorg, Mangalore and Mysore
- WEST ZONE : Lodges in Belgaum, Dharwad, Goa and Hubli
- NORTH ZONE : Lodges in Bellary and Hospet.

New Lodges in centers other than those mentioned above will be assigned to the appropriate zone when applicable.

The meetings will be held in rotation at each of the zones in a clockwise fashion (i.e. East, South, West, and North)

8. The regular meetings shall be held on 1st Sunday in the months of FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST and NOVEMBER at such an hour as may be fixed by the master.

The venue of the meeting will preferably be at the Masonic temples at the center where the meeting is to be held or any other suitable venue.

9. An emergency meeting of the Lodge may be held in accordance with Rule 116 of B of C.

10. The Election of the W. Master, Treasurer and Tyler shall take place at the regular election meeting in November and the installation of the Master-elect shall be in February following.

11. Where an emergency meeting is held for the sole purpose of conferring a degree at the request of a candidate/s or the Lodge/s, for the convenience of such candidate/s or the Lodge/s, the cost of the dispensation fees, plus a sum of Rs.500/- towards the expenses of the meeting shall be payable to the Lodge by the candidate or candidates the respective Lodge/s making the request.

#### PERMANENT COMMITTEE:

12. The permanent committee shall comprise the W. Master, all Past Masters Of the Lodge the Wardens, Chaplain, Deacons, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Ceremonies, Assistant Secretary, ASST. D/C and Almoner.

13. The Permanent Committee shall meet on the date of the regular meeting or on such other day or date when the regular meeting will be held at such an hour that may be fixed by the W. Master in consultation with Wardens to transact the following business :

- To enquire and report all applications for joining.
- To make recommendations for sanction on all financial matters.
- To consider and recommend the agenda for the Meeting.
- To consider and report upon such other matters as the Lodge may refer to it.

14. The quorum for a P.C. meetings shall be seven (7) members.

15. The W. Master shall preside over the meeting of the P.C. or in his absence the IPM or if both are not present any other Past Master of the Lodge or the Senior Warden or the Junior Warden in that order and seniority present shall preside. The proceedings of the P.C. shall be duly recorded and signed by the chairman, who shall have a casting vote in case of an equal division of opinion.

The secretary of the Lodge shall be the Ex-officio secretary of the P.C.

16. The proceedings of the P.C. shall be read at the regular meeting of the Lodge following the P.C. and shall be put for adoption.

17. The secretary and treasurer shall attend the meeting with the necessary books of reference and accounts to assist in the conduct of business.

#### FEES:

18. The following fees shall be levied and paid:

- Founders fees : Rs.1,000/- (One thousand only)
- Joining fees : Rs.500/- (Five hundred only)
- Re-joining fees : Rs.750/- (Sevenhundred and fifty only)

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS:

19. The subscription will be due annually and payable in advance in JANUARY every year or before joining as follows:

1. Ordinary member Rs.350/- per annum
2. Life member Rs.5000/- (one time)

In addition to the above each member shall pay towards the GLI and RGL dues as levied and applicable from time to time, *Some members who are 75 years and above*

The Lodge may cause every member to pay towards the stewards fund Rs.200/- pa or such an amount as may be recommended by the P.C. and approved in open Lodge.

20. Any member who is in arrears of subscription for more than FOUR (4) months will not be eligible to vote, propose or second a candidate for joining or be eligible for being appointed to any office.
21. If any member allows his dues to remain unpaid for SIX (6) months he shall receive intimation from the secretary in writing and sent by registered post to the last known address, and if the arrears are not cleared within one month from the date of issue of such registered letter he shall be liable to be excluded under rule 156 of B of C.
22. Should a Brother who has been excluded or whose membership has ceased automatically wish to rejoin, he must clear all the arrears due by him and pay there joining fees and must again be balloted for.
23. The membership of a brother will AUTOMATICALLY cease on non payment of subscription for ONE (1) full year - in which case he will also cease to be a member of all the Lodges of which he is a member (rule 124 B of C).

#### FUNDS:

24. All moneys shall be deposited in a selected nationalised Bank in the name of the Lodge in the following fund accounts:

1. General fund
2. Benevolent fund
3. Refreshment fund

Each of the accounts shall be operated by the Treasurer jointly with the W. Master or Secretary.

25. The subscription shall be apportioned to the respective accounts as below:
  - i) General fund Rs.150/-
  - ii) Benevolent fund Rs.50/-
  - iii) Refreshment fund Rs.150/-

26. The Benevolent fund shall be devoted solely for the purpose of Charity/Benevolence. Moneys collected from the following source shall form the fund.
  1. Collection made towards Charity/Benevolent fund at the regular meeting.
  2. Voluntary contribution expressly made for the purpose.
  3. Rs.50/- from the subscription of each member.
27. A sum of Rs.500/- (Rupees five hundred) from this fund shall be held at the disposal of the W. Master to meet emergency cases of distress and such cases shall be reported to the Lodge at the next regular meeting.
28. The charity box shall be circulated immediately before closing the Lodge at every regular meeting. The sum collected shall be declared to the Brethren by the Secretary/Treasurer before the closing of the Lodge and duly recorded and the amount deposited in benevolent fund a/c.
29. The refreshment fund shall be made up of a transfer of Rs.150/- from the subscription of every ordinary member and a similar transfer from the interest out of the Life membership corpus of the concerned brother.

The stewards fund contribution by each member shall also be deposited to the refreshment fund A/c.

30. The Life members subscription shall be maintained in a separate account as the LIFE MEMBERSHIP CORPUS in FIXED DEPOSIT and the accrued interest derived there from shall be apportioned as follows:

General fund Rs.150/- p.a.

Refreshment fund Rs.200/- p.a.

Benevolent fund Rs. .... p.a. (the balance amount of the interest)
31. All moneys of the Lodge other than those mentioned in By-laws 26 & 29 shall remain in the general fund.

Payment exceeding an amount of Rs.500/- shall be by cheque only and for other than ordinary purpose from the general fund shall be by resolution of the Lodge.

All payments from the benevolent fund shall be by resolution of the Lodge.

#### JOINING:

32. Every application for joining shall be placed by the secretary before the P.C. for recommendation. Every application for joining shall be in accordance with Rule 138 of B of C.

#### BALLOT:

33. No brother for joining shall be balloted for until he has signed the declaration as set in Rule 138 of B of C.
34. Voting for joining shall be by ballot.

White and black balls shall be used for balloting (white in favour and Black against the candidate)

The declaration of the ballot shall be in accordance with Rule 140 of B of C (as amended on Dec 18, 1999)

35. A candidate for joining or rejoining shall not be repropose until after the expiry of ONE (1) year from the date of rejection.

#### PROPOSITIONS:

36. No motion shall be made or discussed in the Lodge, which is not mentioned in the summons, unless in the case of an emergency or as the W. Master may direct.
37. No question once decided in open Lodge shall be raised again a second time without the permission of W. Master or until SIX (6) months have elapsed after the last decision.
38. The W. Master shall have a casting vote in the event of there being an equality of votes on any matter or question to be decided by a majority.
39. No proposition shall be put to the Lodge when assembled unless it is proposed by one member and seconded by another. An amendment however, duly proposed and seconded may be made to any proposition. In this case the amendment shall be put to vote first: if negated, unless other amendments be proposed, the original proposition shall be put to vote, but if the amendment be carried the original proposition shall be considered lost.

#### SECRETARY:

40. The Secretary shall be in charge of all Lodge records, books other than the account books (which are maintained by the Treasurer) and also all property of the Lodge. All Correspondence Files, Properties, Minutes' Books P.C. meeting Minutes' books etc, which are held by the Secretary must be handed over to the successor

immediately after the installation meeting.

41. The Secretary shall be in charge of all correspondence, shall issue summons for all meetings (under the authority of the W. Master) to all members, record the minutes of proceedings and maintain all registers and books that are necessary for the Lodge.
42. The Secretary shall take note of members coming within the provisions By-laws No 20, 21 and 23 and Rule 124 and 156 of B of C and report to the Lodge and take necessary steps to enforce the above provision.

#### TREASURER:

43. The treasurer shall maintain such books of accounts as are necessary under Rule 129 of B of C. Bank Pass books, Cheque books, Fixed deposit receipts etc, must be held by the treasurer during the tenure of his period and shall be transferred to his successor immediately after the installation meeting.
44. All payments exceeding Rs. 500/- shall ordinarily be paid by cheque only.

45. The treasurer shall intimate to the Secretary all cases of arrears falling under By-laws 20, 21 and 23 Rule 124 and 156 of B of C.

#### TYLER:

46. The Tyler may be exempt from the payment of subscription. However the GLI/RGL and Benevolent fund Contribution will have to be paid by the member.

#### VISITORS:

47. No visitor shall be admitted into the Lodge unless properly proven and vouched for as provided in Rule 104 of B of C. Further rule 105 and 106 of B/C will also govern the admission of visitors.

Visitors shall not be permitted to speak or vote on any motion under any circumstances but he may address the Lodge upon any point connected with the craft in general, with the sanction first obtained of the W. Master or officer-in-charge of the Lodge.

#### AUDIT COMMITTEE: & ACCOUNTS:

48. The financial year of the Lodge shall be from JANUARY to DECEMBER every year. The accounts shall be closed on Dec 31 every year, the first closing being Dec 31, 2000.
49. At the Regular election meeting in each year in November, the Lodge shall appoint an audit committee of three to report on the

working of the Lodge (Rule 129 of B of C)

50. The Treasurer shall have the annual accounts made for the year and present it to the Audit Committee for comments and report thereon.
51. The annual accounts with the Audit committee Report shall be placed before the open Lodge on the Installation meeting for consideration and adoption.

#### ALTERATION OF BY-LAWS:

52. No alteration or addition to the By-laws shall be made but by a TWO-THIRD (2/3) majority of votes taken on a motion submitted in writing and included in the summons for the meeting.
53. These By-laws shall not be abrogated, amended or altered unless the abrogation, amendment and or alteration shall have been recommended and approved in one regular meeting by 2/3 members present and confirmed at the next regular meeting by 2/3 members present. The changes shall not become effective until subsequently approved by R.W. the Regional Grand Master of the RGL-Southern India and M.W. the Grand Master.
54. In the event of any abrogation, amendment or revision of any By-laws the Secretary shall provide each member with a copy thereof after approval by R.W. the RGM-Southern India and M.W. the Grand Master.

#### ENDOWMENTS GIFTS.

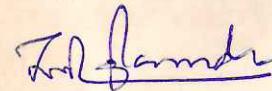
55. The Lodge may accept such endowments, gifts from members, members' families or donors on recommendation of the Permanent Committee and set up such endowments generally in keeping with the wishes of the donor.

#### GENERAL:

56. The provisions of the Book of Constitutions and the amendments from time to time shall apply to all matters which are not mentioned in these By-laws.
57. Every member of the Lodge on JOINING shall be presented with a copy of these By-laws and his acceptance thereof shall be deemed a pledge of his strict adherence and submission to the By-laws contained therein.

9.

These Bye-Laws were adopted by the Lodge at its Consecration meeting held on Sunday, 23rd April, 2000 A.D. corresponding to the day of Chaitra 1922 Saka Era.



T.V. Raghavendran

Senior Warden



Dr. R.N. Joshi  
Worshipful Master.



T. Sathyamurayana  
Junior Warden.



Col. Sreekantha, S.M.  
Secretary.

Approved by the R.W. The Regional Grand Master of the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India.

Chennai (Madras)  
May, 2000.

Arun Chintopanth  
Regional Grand Master.

Approved by M.W. The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India.

New Delhi  
May, 2000.

H.P. Mathur, O.S.M.  
Grand Master.