



SOUTH AFRICA LODGE No 6742
THE SOUTH AFRICA LODGE ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

CONSTITUTION

No part of this Constitution shall conflict with the Constitutions and Regulations of the United Grand Lodge of England or with the By-Laws of the South Africa Lodge No 6742 and where any such conflict appears to arise then the Constitutions and Regulations of the United Grand Lodge of England shall take precedence and thereafter the By-Laws of the South Africa Lodge No 6742.

1. NAME, AFFILIATION & LIMITATIONS

The name of the association shall be THE SOUTH AFRICA LODGE ASSOCIATION (the Association) and it will be affiliated to, and controlled by, the SOUTH AFRICA LODGE No 6742, London (the Lodge). The Association shall not operate or function as a Masonic Lodge in any way whatsoever and its activities shall be limited to the advancement and promotion of the Masonic Grand Principles, the South Africa Lodge No 6742, and Freemasonry in general.

2. AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the South Africa Lodge Associations shall be to:-

- 2.1. Promote Freemasonry and Masonic Principles.
- 2.2. Build closer ties and greater communication between South African Freemasons and South Africa Lodge No 6742 so that they know and understand that they have a Masonic 'home' in London.
- 2.3. Establish and maintain a fund to enable rapid but limited assistance to members of the South Africa Lodge Association who visit London and require emergency help or advice.
- 2.4. Assist members of the South Africa Lodge Association and other South African Freemasons by facilitating aid from the United Grand Lodge of England, the Masonic Grand Charity, the Metropolitan Grand Lodge, the South African Embassy in London, or any other similar bodies where such aid and assistance is required and necessary.
- 2.5. Support the Masonic Charities of the United Grand Lodge of England, the Metropolitan Grand Lodge, the South Africa Lodge No 6742, or any other recognised and acknowledged Masonic Charity.

3. FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

- 3.1. The Associations Financial Year shall be 1st January to 31st December in each year commencing 1st January 2014
- 3.2. All monies belonging to the Association shall be held in such bank or investment accounts as may be decided by the Lodge from time to time, and will be administered by the Lodge Treasurer and reflected in the Lodge's books and financial reports.
- 3.3. Any payments made from the Association's Funds shall be subject to the same authority and limits as payments made from Lodge Funds.
- 3.4. Should the Association be closed and cease to operate, for whatever reason, then the accounts shall be wound up and any residual funds, after all creditors have been satisfied, shall be donated to the South Africa Lodge No 6742.

4. EXECUTIVE & MANAGEMENT

- 4.1. The South Africa Lodge Association shall be controlled by an Executive Committee consisting of the members of the South Africa Lodge Association and who are Master Masons. The day-to-day management shall be vested in a Management Committee consisting of the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary plus any Member co-opted to serve on the Management Committee according to paragraph 4.3 below.

- 4.2. The Master of South Africa Lodge No 6742 shall, upon his Installation as Master of the Lodge, also become the Chairman of the Association. Likewise the Lodge Treasurer and Lodge Secretary shall, upon their Investiture, become the Association's Treasurer and Secretary respectively. They shall constitute the Management Committee and serve in those capacities until such time as they are replaced by other Executive Committee members so Installed or Invested.
- 4.3. The Chairman shall have the right to co-opt any member of the Executive Committee to assist the Management Committee, or to call any special meeting of the Executive Committee if he considers it necessary.
- 4.4. The members of the Management Committee may meet whenever and as frequently as they consider necessary, and/or may communicate with each other electronically.
- 4.5. All Members of the Association who are Master Masons shall form the Executive Committee of the Association and shall be entitled to cast one vote on any proposition or resolution concerning the Association and placed before the Executive Committee. In the event of the total votes cast for and against any proposition or resolution, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote to resolve the deadlock.
- 4.6. Each Committee Meeting of the Lodge shall also be a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association and notices informing subscribing members of the Lodge about a Lodge Committee Meeting shall be deemed as proper notices of Executive Committee Meetings of the Association. Likewise the minutes of Lodge Committee Meetings shall be accepted as minutes of Executive Committee Meetings of the Association. The agendas for all Lodge Committee meetings shall include "Association Business" as a heading and any specific items for discussion or voting, related to the Association, thereunder.

5. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the South Africa Lodge Association shall consist of :

- 5.1. **Members**, who shall be the honorary members and the subscribing members of the South Africa Lodge No 6742.

Anyone becoming a subscribing member of South Africa Lodge No 6742, either by Initiation or Joining, or becoming an Honorary Member of the Lodge by election, shall automatically become a Member of the Association.

- 5.2. It is not necessary for a Member of the Association to be a Master Mason, however any Member who is not a Master Mason shall not be a member of the Executive Committee, and shall not be entitled to speak or vote at any meeting of the Executive Committee unless with the prior consent of the Chairman of the Association.

Associates, who shall be members of at least one Lodge under any Grand Lodge which is fully recognised by, and in amity with, the United Grand Lodge of England, and who is a resident in and of the Republic of South Africa.

Associates shall be admitted to that grade, provided they qualify, upon completing the prescribed application form and on being recommended by at least two Associates (or Members) and Approved by a Member, and upon payment of the Annual Fee prescribed in the By-Laws.

6. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 6.1. This Constitution may only be amended by the Executive Committee following a recommendation by the Management Committee and after advance notice of the proposed amendment has been given to every Member of the Association and a 2/3 majority of those present and voting at the Executive Committee Meeting where such amendment is considered shall be in favour of it.
- 6.2. Any Associate or Member of the Association may initiate a process of consideration of a change in the Constitution by submitting the recommended change and the reasons therefore to the Secretary.

BY-LAWS

1. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION

For the sake of regularity, all correspondence intended for the Association, including the Management and Executive Committees shall be directed to the Secretary. The Secretary of the Association shall always be the same individual as the Secretary of the South Africa Lodge No 6742 and his contact details appear on every Lodge Summons or Agenda.

2. JOINING & MEMBERSHIP

Brethren shall join and become members of the South Africa Lodge Association only in accordance with these procedures:

2.1. Associate

Masons who meet the requirements of the Association's Constitution may apply to become an Associate of the South Africa Lodge Association. To do this they must complete an application form, available from any Associate Member or from the Secretary.

The application form must be recommended by two Associates or Members and approved by a Member, other than those recommending, and then submitted to the Secretary along with the Annual Fee pro-rata for the remaining months of the current financial year.

New Associates will be informed of their acceptance by email.

2.2 Member

On becoming a subscribing member of South Africa Lodge No 6742, or an Honorary Member of that Lodge, the Brother automatically becomes a Member of the Association.

There is no additional annual fee payable.

3. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Any Grade of Membership of the South Africa Lodge Association may be terminated:-

3.1. By voluntary resignation directed to the Secretary.

Any brother who resigns voluntarily may re-join at any time, if he so desires.

3.2. By cessation upon failing to pay the Annual Fees for a period of two years.

Any brother whose membership ceases for non-payment of fees may re-join at any time, if he so desires, by paying his arrear fees. Upon payment of all arrears, the brother will be regarded as having resigned rather than having ceased.

3.3. By exclusion for a contravention of the Constitution and/or By-Laws of the Association, or for any other serious complaint. The member subject to exclusion shall have the opportunity to state his case fully, in writing, or in person, or through any member of the Executive Committee he may choose to nominate. After hearing the complaint and the defence the matter will be put to the vote. Should exclusion be supported by a 2/3 majority of those present and voting at an Executive Committee meeting of the Association, the exclusion shall come into immediate effect.

3.4. By disciplinary expulsion should the Executive Committee have good reason to believe that any Associate or Member has brought Freemasonry, the South Africa Lodge No 6742, or the South Africa Lodge Association into disrepute. The member subject to disciplinary expulsion shall have the opportunity to state his case fully, in writing, or in person, or through any member of the Executive Committee he may choose to nominate. The Executive Committee shall hear the charges and the defence submitted by the Associate, Member or Fellow, and then proceed to vote. If a 2/3 majority of those present and voting support the disciplinary expulsion, the Associate or Member shall be immediately expelled.

3.5. Those whose membership is terminated by cessation, exclusion or disciplinary expulsion may appeal to the Management Committee within 60 days of the termination of their membership. The Management Committee will review the full deliberations of the Executive Committee as well as any fresh information brought before them and either support or reject the appeal. The Management Committee's decision is final.

3.6. By automatic expulsion should any member be expelled by their Grand Lodge.

4. BENEFITS OF ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

The Executive Committee may amend Associate Membership benefits at any time. All Associates will be advised of any changes made. Currently the benefits of being an Associate are:

4.1. Associates who supply a valid email address will receive all Lodge notices and a periodic newsletter.

- 4.2. Associates shall be entitled to attend any regular meetings of the Lodge and to dine with the Lodge thereafter under the same conditions which apply to Lodge members. You will be assured of a friendly welcome and a pleasurable experience. Those wishing to dine must advise the Lodge Secretary in advance and pay the dining fee.
- 4.3. Associates are cordially invited and most welcome to participate in any social or charitable events held by the Lodge under the same terms and conditions as Lodge members.
- 4.4. Associates, upon joining, shall be entitled to receive a lapel pin to indicate their membership. Associates are requested to wear this pin on all Masonic occasions.
- 4.5. Associates visiting London who find themselves faced with any serious problem or emergency shall be entitled to ask for, and receive, advice, assistance and material aid to help them overcome their distress. The Lodge will also materially assist in obtaining help, where this is necessary, from the United Grand Lodge of England, the Grand Charity, local authorities and/or the South African Embassy in London.

Associates who are moving to London for an extended period of time are most welcome to become joining members of the Lodge. Your application will be speedily processed without the difficulty of finding a Proposer or Secunder. You will also find that the Lodge members will give you advice and guidance on any problems and difficulties you are likely to encounter when first moving to London.

5. FEES AND DUES

All Fees go to form and replenish a Fund for the assistance of Associates visiting London who may find themselves facing a serious crisis or emergency and be in urgent need of help and assistance. Any money surplus to the requirements of this fund will go to the South Africa Lodge No 6742 where it will be applied to aiding South African Freemasons and/or supporting Masonic Charity.

The Fees payable by Associates may be changed by the Executive Committee. The Current Fees are:

- 5.1. There is no Joining Fee for becoming an Associate
- 5.2. The Annual Fee, payable in advance by an Associate is R100-00.
This Annual Fee is due and payable in full on the 1st January each year. Accounts are not sent out.
- 5.3. For new Associates the Annual Fee will be reduced *pro-rata* to cover only the number of months remaining in the financial year of joining.
- 5.4. No Fees are payable by Members
- 5.5. Annual Fees may be paid to an Executive Committee Member appointed to represent the Association in each South African Masonic District. He will issue a receipt and then be responsible for forwarding the list of Associates, and the amounts they have paid, to the Secretary.

6. AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

- 6.1. These By-Laws may only be amended by the Executive Committee after recommendation by the Management Committee and after advance notice of the proposed amendment has been given to every Member of the Association and a 2/3 majority of those present and voting at the Executive Committee Meeting where such amendment is considered shall be in favour of it.
- 6.2. Any Associate or Member of the Association may initiate a process of consideration of a change in the By-Laws by submitting the recommended change and the reasons therefore to the Secretary.