



Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Durham.

Provincial By-Laws.



1. Members of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons consists of the Provincial Grand Master together with the Provincial Grand Officers present or past, and the Master, Wardens, and Overseers, of every Lodge in the Province of Durham, together with Masters and Past Masters of any Lodge under the English Constitution, if they be members of Grand Lodge, and are subscribing members of a Lodge within the Province of Durham.

Mark Masters, when invited to attend the meetings of Provincial Grand Lodge, may, by special permission of the Provincial Grand Master, or other presiding Officer (but not otherwise), address Provincial Grand Lodge on any subject under discussion, but they cannot vote on any question.

All Brethren attending Provincial Grand Lodge shall sign the Provincial Grand Lodge Register or signature book.

2. Appointment of a Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and an Assistant Provincial Grand Master

The Provincial Grand Master may appoint a Deputy, and an Assistant, to execute all the functions of the Office in his name, and may for this purpose invest them by patent, under his hand and seal, with the requisite powers during his pleasure. In this case, he must transmit, in writing, the name and place of abode of his Deputy and Assistant to all Lodges in the Province, and also to the Grand Secretary for registration, within one month of appointment. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, must have previously served the Office of Master in a Regular Lodge.

3. Provincial Grand Mark Lodge Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge shall be held at such place within the Province, and at such time, as the Provincial Grand Master may appoint.

Special meetings of Provincial Grand Lodge may be held whenever, in the judgement of the Provincial Grand Master, it may be necessary.

The election of the Provincial Grand Treasurer, and the investiture of Provincial Grand Mark Officers, shall take place at the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge.

Nominations for the Office of Treasurer must be lodged with the Provincial Grand Secretary on or before the 1st April each year.

The Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners shall be held at such place within the Province, and at such time, as the Provincial Grand Master may appoint.

4. Notice of Meeting

Fourteen clear days' notice of the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge shall be transmitted by the Provincial Grand Secretary to the members of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge.

Fourteen clear days' notice of the Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners shall be transmitted by the Provincial Grand Scribe to the Scribes of Royal Ark Mariner Lodges.

5. Representation at Provincial Grand Mark Meeting

Every Mark Lodge in the Province shall be represented either by the Master, or a Past Master, or by at least one of the Wardens, at the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge. The same regulation will apply to the Royal Ark Mariner Annual Assembly.

6. Fees of Honour

Every Brother who is appointed to any Office in Provincial Grand Mark Lodge shall, on his FIRST appointment, pay to the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge a Fee of Honour at such level as from time to time may be approved at the Annual Meeting. The same fee will apply to Brethren appointed to Royal Ark Mariner Provincial Grand Rank.

7. Appointments to Vacant Offices

If any Office in Provincial Grand Mark Lodge shall be rendered vacant, the Provincial Grand Master may fill such vacancy by the appointment of another Brother who shall, from the date of his appointment in writing, take rank in the same manner as if he had been appointed at an Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge. Such appointments shall be recorded in the Minutes of the next Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge.

8. Lodge Returns

Before every Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge, the Master of each Mark Lodge in the Province shall complete and sign a Lodge Return as a Statement of the Position of his Lodge. The Commander of every RAM Lodge will be required to do the same before the Annual Assembly. This Return will then be sent to the Provincial Grand Secretary. This Return to be in such form as the Provincial Grand Master may from time to time prescribe.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary of every Mark Lodge and RAM Lodge to complete and return the Annual Provincial Return forms provided by the Provincial Grand Secretary, along with the dues and fees payable, within one month of the Annual Installation Meeting of the Lodge.

9. Fees

Fees shall be payable to Provincial Grand Lodge by the Mark Lodges in the Province for:

- Each subscribing member per annum, or part thereof
- Each Advancement
- Registering a new Lodge, or the removal of a Warrant
- Each Founder of a new Lodge
- Fee for non-return of an Active Officer's Collar Jewel
- RAM Lodges will be charged an Annual flat rate to be decided by Mark Grand Lodge annually.

The Provincial Grand Secretary shall advise all Lodge Secretaries of the current fees, and any amendments which may be approved, at the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge.

10. Accounts

All monies belonging to the Provincial Grand Lodge and the Durham Provincial Grand Mark Lodge Benevolent Fund shall be paid by the Provincial Grand Treasurer, or an appointed Officer, into a Bank or Building Society approved by the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge. All accounts shall be in the name of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge, or the Durham Provincial Grand Mark Lodge Benevolent Fund as appropriate, and all payments shall be by cheque signed by the Provincial Grand Treasurer, or an appointed Officer, and countersigned by the Provincial Grand Master, or the Provincial Grand Secretary; or alternatively by any means of electronic payment deemed appropriate by the said approved signatories.

11. Investment of Funds

Surplus monies shall be invested by Trustees who shall be the PGM, the DPGM, the APGM, the Provincial Secretary, and the Provincial Treasurer in investments authorised by law as investments for Trust funds.

12. Audit

The Accounts of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge shall be audited twenty eight days before the Annual Meeting by a firm of Auditors elected at the previous Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge.

A statement of the Accounts so audited shall be sent to the members of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge.

13. Lodge Summons

The Secretary of each Mark Lodge, and the Scribe of each RAM Lodge in the Province shall send to the Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and the Provincial Grand Secretary, a copy of the Summons for every meeting of the Lodge at the same time as it is sent to the members.

14. Book of Constitutions

The Master of each Mark Lodge shall, at the cost of the Lodge, present to each newly advanced Brother, a copy of the current Book of Constitutions, and the By-Laws of the Lodge.

15. Provincial Committee of General Purposes

There shall be a Provincial Committee of General Purposes which shall consist of: The Provincial Grand Master; the Deputy Provincial Grand Master; the Assistant Provincial Grand Master; the Provincial Grand Secretary; The Provincial Grand Treasurer; the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies; and up to a maximum of four (4) other members co-opted by the Provincial Grand Master as required, to assist with specific issues and projects.

16. Communications

All communications to Grand Lodge must go through the Provincial Grand Secretary, as should formal queries relating to individual Lodges.

17. Motions

No motion shall be proposed in Provincial Grand Mark Lodge, or alteration made in any By-Law, unless Notice of such motion or alteration has been sent to the Provincial Grand Secretary in time for it to be inserted into the Summons convening Provincial Grand Mark Lodge.

No motions, By-Laws, or Resolutions which shall be adopted at meetings of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge shall require any further confirmation.

18. By-Laws

These By-Laws, when duly approved, shall be binding on all Lodges within the Province until altered by Provincial Grand Lodge, upon proper Notice in pursuance of By-Law No. 17. They shall be printed at the expense of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge, and a copy shall be sent to every Mark Lodge in the Province.

Regulations for the Administration of the Durham Provincial Grand Mark Lodge Benevolent Fund

1. Benevolent Committee

The Committee of the Durham Provincial Grand Mark Lodge Benevolent Fund shall consist of: The Provincial Grand Master; the Deputy Provincial Grand Master; the Assistant Provincial Grand Master; the Provincial Grand Treasurer; the Provincial Grand Secretary; two members appointed annually by the Provincial Grand Master; plus one member to be elected annually by each Mark Lodge in the Province.

2. Benevolent Representative

The name and address of the Benevolent Representative of each Lodge shall, immediately upon election, be transmitted to the Provincial Grand Secretary, and should any such member be unable to attend the meeting of the Benevolent Committee he may depute the Master, or any Past Master or Warden of the Lodge, to act in his stead.

3. Chairman

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master shall be the Chairman, and the Provincial Grand Secretary shall be the Secretary.

4. Meetings

The Benevolent Committee shall meet at least once in every year, and shall present a Report of its Proceedings at the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Mark Lodge.

5. Rules

The Benevolent Committee shall have the power from time to time to make Rules and Regulations for the conduct of their proceedings.

These By-Laws and Regulations were approved at a meeting of the Provincial Grand Mark Lodge

held at
The Lancastrian Suite
Lancaster Road
Dunston
Gateshead
On

Wednesday, 26th June 2019

Provincial Grand Master: E. K. Wilson Date: 8.2.2020

Provincial Grand Secretary: A. Gurney Date: 8/2/2020

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE
GENERAL BOARD
LONDON

14 FEB 2020

Ryan A. Wilson

Grand Secretary