

# Removing an Officer of the OKGOP

## THE CHAIRMAN CANNOT OBSTRUCT THE HEARING FOR HIS OWN REMOVAL

OKGOP Rule 10 states that a Chairman and Vice Chairman can issue a joint call for a meeting, or if they “cannot agree as to such a call”, then either officer may issue a call unilaterally. The first call is the official call.

**GRIEVANCES:** The Chairman’s actions circumvented the OKGOP Rules procedure from being properly implemented and the Chairman co-opted the date, time and location that had been secured for the original meeting. The Chairman did not follow the OKGOP Rules when he failed to respond to the call requested by 83 members and then called his own meeting without offering the Vice Chairman the opportunity to join that call. The Chairman’s attempt to obstruct consideration for his removal defies the authority of the State Committee.

*Note:*

- The required one-fourth of the existing State Committee membership (83 members) asked the Chairman to sign a call for the purpose of providing opportunity for hearing, and then a vote to remove the Chairman.
- Instead of agreeing or refusing to join the call, the Chairman issued his own call unilaterally, changing the purpose of the meeting, without notifying the Vice Chairman as the rules require.
- The Vice Chairman issued the original requested call for the removal meeting for later in the afternoon.



## OKGOP RULES ON REMOVAL

OKGOP Rule 19h states that the State Chairman “may be removed at any time for cause by a majority vote of the entire existing membership of the State Committee.”

Any such removal may be ordered only after ten (10) days’ notice in writing has been given to the person charged, stating the cause and time and place of hearing thereon, and after the person has had the opportunity to present evidence, witnesses, and to be heard personally and by counsel.

After the opportunity has been provided for the officer to be heard, he may be removed by a vote of the majority of the entire existing membership of the State Committee.

**GRIEVANCES:** Causes for removal shall include but not be limited to: Misappropriation of funds under the rules of the Republican Party; Failure to follow the rules of the Oklahoma Republican Party; Conviction of a felony; and Publicly supporting or endorsing an opponent of candidates of the Republican Party.

*Note:* The OKGOP Rules are the supreme rule for the OKGOP. It is the final and binding authority for the function and structure of the party. The order of precedence is to refer first to the OKGOP Rules, and then, and only then, look to RONR for rules in all matters the OKGOP Rules do not address. The removal process above has been used in multiple situations to successfully fulfill the requirements of removal in the OKGOP. The State Committee is following this procedure.



**CONTEMPT:** An arrogant disrespect of an authority, willful disregard for and disobedience of the writ and rules of that authority; any behavior that disrupts or obstructs an official proceeding or order. It is characterized as disdain for proper authority and placing oneself above that authority.

**GRIEVANCES:** The Chairman has shown contempt for the authority of the OKGOP State Committee by not recognizing or respecting the will of the State Committee which he is duty-bound to serve.

*Note:* An association has the responsibility to protect its well-being, reputation and mission. An association has the right to choose its officers, and is free to remove its officers when it is deemed necessary for the well-being of the association. It is up to each person to judge what constitutes Good Faith and who can be trusted with positions of service.

Robert’s Rules: Each society decides for itself the meaning of its bylaws.

## Some Principles of Interpretation

56:68 In preparing bylaws and interpreting them, the following principles of interpretation—which have equal application to other rules and documents adopted by an organization—may be of assistance.

1) *Each society decides for itself the meaning of its bylaws.*

When the meaning is clear, however, the society, even by a unanimous vote, cannot change that meaning except by amending its bylaws. An ambiguity must exist before there is any occasion for interpretation. If a bylaw is ambiguous, it must be interpreted, if possible, in harmony with the other bylaws. The interpretation should be in accordance with the intention of the society at the time the bylaw was adopted, as far as this can be determined. Again, intent plays no role unless the meaning is unclear or uncertain, but where an ambiguity exists, a majority vote is all that is required to decide the question. The ambiguous or doubtful expression should be amended as soon as practicable.