



May Bonus Quiz

We previously considered whether an organization could appoint a non-member to serve on one of their committees. A further question: May a society or organization elect an officer who is not a member of the group? Yes or no? Read on after you come up with your own answer.

The answer from Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 11th edition:

[p. 447, ll. 16-19] "In most societies it is usual to elect the officers from among the members; but in all except secret societies, unless the bylaws provide otherwise, it is possible for an organization to choose its officers from outside its membership."

- An example of this given in *RONR* is a large society with complex financial affairs that may wish to elect/employ a non-member professional as its treasurer.
- Another example is an organization that hires a chief executive officer who serves as chairman of the board and presiding officer of the assembly (even though not an actual member of the organization).
- Have you yourself ever been a "hired gavel," to serve as the presiding officer for an organization where you were not a member?
- Any other examples you can think of for non-member officers?