



# Drugs and Crime

## Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Profile

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U. S. D E P A R T M E N T O F J U S T I C E

# Outlaws

# Motorcycle Club

The Outlaws Motorcycle Club, an outlaw motorcycle gang (OMG) with more than [REDACTED] members, is a serious criminal threat to the United States. The Outlaws Motorcycle Club also identifies itself as the A.O.A. (American Outlaws Association) and the Outlaws Nation. It is the dominant OMG in the [REDACTED] and also has been very active in [REDACTED] where it currently is competing with the [REDACTED]

The Outlaws Motorcycle Club engages in various criminal activities including [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It competes with the [REDACTED] for membership and territory, and in Canada and Europe this competition has incited extreme violence that has resulted in dozens of deaths. [REDACTED]

## Background

The Outlaws Motorcycle Club (OMC) began in 1935 as the McCook Outlaws Motorcycle Club in McCook, Illinois, near Chicago. The club remained intact throughout World War II, but its activity was limited. In May 1946 club members hosted the Midwest's first major postwar motorcycle rally at Soldier Field. The McCook Outlaws,

as the club was known, reportedly requested a charter from the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club (HAMC) in the late 1940s, but the request was ignored. This infuriated Outlaws members and triggered the animosity between the two clubs that persists to the present.

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After extensive growth, the club moved its headquarters to Chicago in 1950 and changed its name to the Chicago Outlaws. It also changed its logo from a winged motorcycle to a white skull

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

By 1963 the club, emulating [REDACTED], had adopted the antisocial and antiauthority philosophy typical of OMGs and at midnight on January 1, 1965, officially christened itself the American Outlaws Association (A.O.A.).

OMC strengthened its hold on the [REDACTED] during the 1970s by establishing core chapters in [REDACTED] other chapters in [REDACTED]

During this period Harold "Stairway Harry" Henderson gained legendary status as the club's dynamic president, and the Outlaws OMG became a major [REDACTED]

In 1977 OMC achieved international status by absorbing several chapters of the [REDACTED] and proclaimed itself the Outlaws Nation.

In the 1980s OMC added [REDACTED] new chapters in its core states. It also expanded internationally by adding chapters in [REDACTED] Harry Henderson, an alcoholic burdened by continuous criminal investigations, stepped down as the

club's international president. Harry "Taco" Bowman assumed the presidency, and the headquarters chapter, known as the mother chapter, was moved from [REDACTED]. By this time OMC had become a

[REDACTED]

During the 1990s OMC added [REDACTED]

Incidents of OMC [REDACTED] violence involving [REDACTED] resulted in widespread arrests and prosecutions. In addition, [REDACTED] chapters were added in the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

as a direct challenge because the state, as well as most of the [REDACTED] traditionally was considered [REDACTED]. In [REDACTED]

International President Harry Bowman [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ruthlessly suppressing rival OMGs. In 1998 he was indicted under federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) charges but fled to avoid prosecution. Two years later he was apprehended and convicted and currently is serving the first of two consecutive life sentences. Other investigations by the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] have resulted in the imprisonment of many key officers and over [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In 2000 the national president, James Wheeler, replaced Harry Bowman as international president [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In 2½ years Wheeler has [REDACTED] new chapters in the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This expansion [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has heightened tensions between OMC and [REDACTED]

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# Organizational Structure

The OMC [redacted] dictates [redacted]

The [redacted]

Each chapter has [redacted] concerning elections, meetings, disciplinary actions, events, and the role of female associates.

OMC has international, national [redacted]

[redacted] officers. A member may hold [redacted]

At the international/national level is an international president and a national president. [redacted]

Under the international and national officers

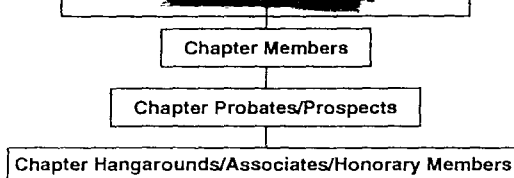
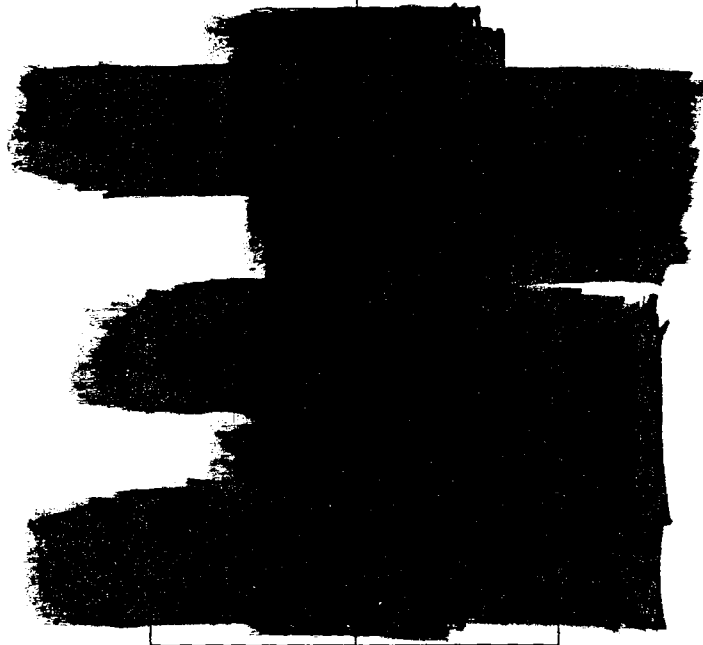
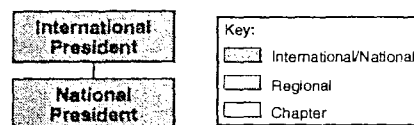
are [redacted]



Below the [redacted] are the members, prospective members, and various associates.

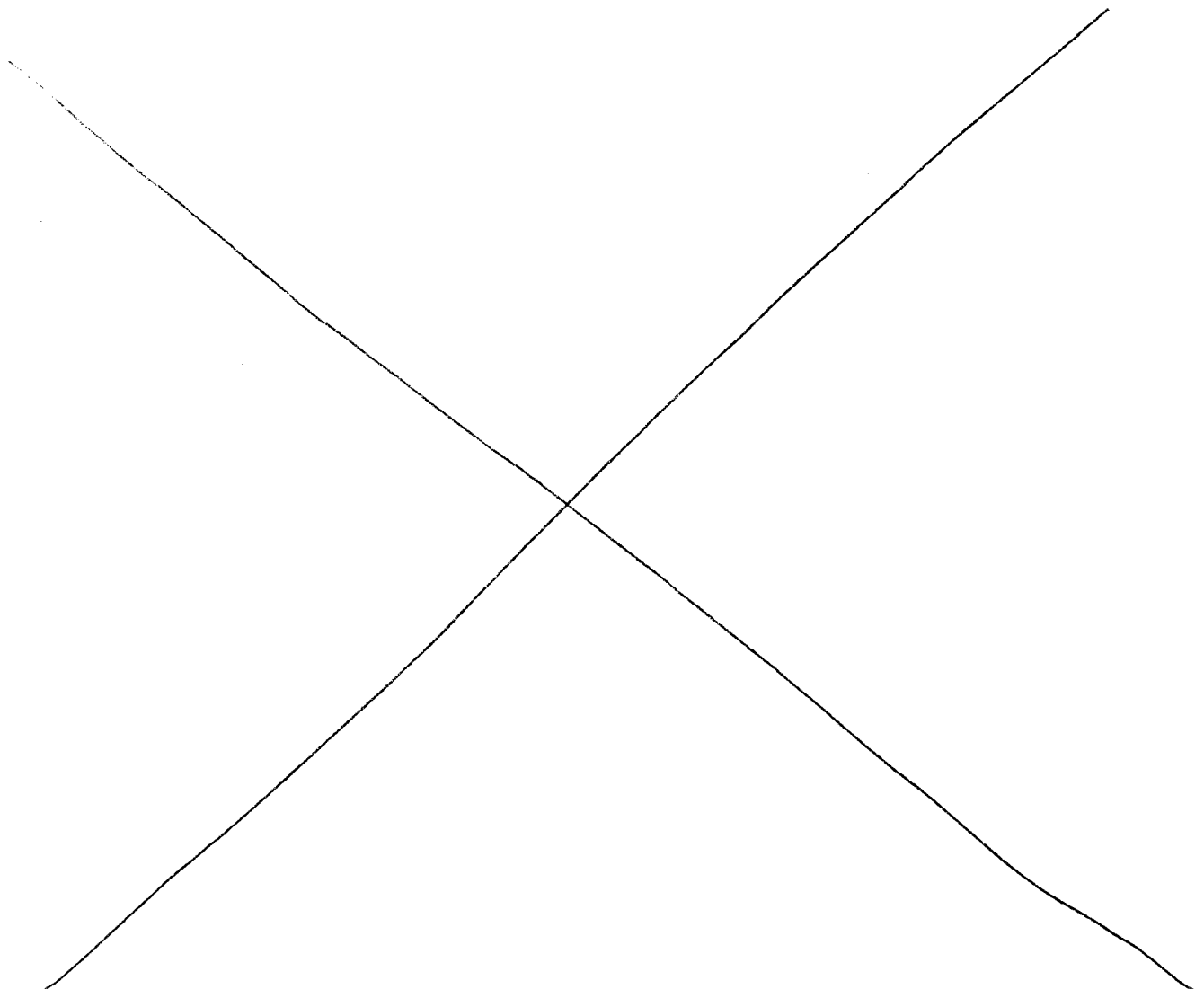
International/national [redacted] officers control [redacted] with other OMGs, [redacted]. They meet

Outlaws Organizational Chart

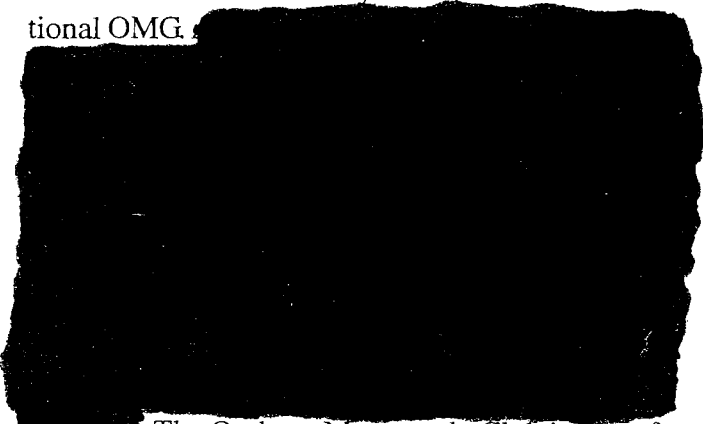


periodically with [redacted]





The Outlaws Motorcycle Club is an international OMG.



The Outlaws Motorcycle Club is one of the fastest growing OMGs in the world in terms of new members and chapters formed.

## Membership

Outlaws members must be male, at least 21 years old, and own an American-made motorcycle [REDACTED]. In the United States members must be Caucasian or [REDACTED]. To be accepted as a member, an individual must begin as an associate or “hangaround” and must perform some service for the chapter. If [REDACTED] determine that the hangaround has membership potential, he becomes a “prospect,” and when he is deemed ready for formal consideration, he becomes a “probate.” For a period of at least [REDACTED] the probate officially is evaluated for

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