



# THE HOOD SCOOP

November 2022

## Gateway GTO Donation to the Pontiac Museum

By Chris Winslow

Gateway GTO  
Association



As covered in the September edition of *The Hoodscoop*, our 11th Annual Regional Car Show at the Pontiac Museum was another successful event raising money for the museum.

After the show was over, we tallied our net proceeds from the weekend. As usual, our largest expense was the trophies and the record inflation this year drove that cost to increase 30% from what we paid in 2021. We did, however, have some great sponsorships from other GTOAA chapters as well as other Pontiac enthusiast clubs to help offset the costs.

Once it was all added up we determined that we had raised a total of \$4000 for the Museum at the event. A lot of that money was cash raised by Earl's amazing 50/50 efforts.

This year, I drove up to Pontiac for the check presentation. I was met at the museum by Tim Dye, Alan Finkenbinder, and Liz Vincent. (For those that don't know Liz, she works for the City of Pontiac and helps us organize the event each year).

We have already booked the 12th annual show for September 15th through the 17th 2023, so mark your calendars!

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THE HOOD SCOOP

# Presidents Scoop

## The President's Scoop

By Chris Winslow

With Thanksgiving behind us, and cold weather seemingly showing up overnight, it looks like it is time to start thinking about putting the cars away for the season. I already have the GTO up on its Flat Stopper ramps and will be getting the leather treated and a few other things done before covering it up until after all the salt is gone in 2023. The Trans Am will stay out until after my son and I make our annual T-Tops out Eagle Watching Run on the Great River Road over in Illinois and then it will be down for the season too.

Of course, just because the cars are put away for the season does not mean that there aren't any Gateway activities to look forward to. Our annual Christmas party is scheduled for December 10th in our usual location at the Webster Groves Barn. Sandra Melrose has been hard at work planning the event. The theme this year is Cardinals and Candy Cane Gala. There is a flyer with the details attached to this newsletter. If you are planning to attend and have not already sent Will a check please do so by November 30th so that we can get an accurate count for the food.

Also, Bob Blattel has organized a toy drive again for this year. This time he is teaming up with the United Way. I have a flyer attached with drop off locations. And, as always, if you would rather just drop the toys at my house, Paula and I will make sure they get to Bob. The deadline this year is December 2nd.

Our first activity for the new year will be our annual Pizza Party. We will be returning to Crusoe's in South County again for 2023. We are currently planning that event for January 15th, but we won't be able to officially book that until sometime in the next week or two, so stay tuned for confirmation of that date.

Speaking of 2023, the GTOAA National Convention in Springfield will be here before we know it. If you have not already, be sure to get your hotel room booked and your cars registered. We will have limited indoor Concours parking so if you want to be inside there is no time to waste. Dan and Tom have been filling in the worker schedule for the event and we now have only a few slots remaining. If you would like to look at the sign up sheet to see what you signed up for or to see what slots are left, it is posted up on the Gateway GTO website. Click [HERE](#) to go to the page.

I hope you and your families had a very happy Thanksgiving and look forward to seeing everyone at the Christmas party in a few weeks!





# Meeting Minutes



## Minutes 11/3/2022

### 7:01 PM – Meeting Start – Chris Winslow Lead

New Members– Former Gateway member John Novelle attended the meeting

### Old Business

Winery Run-Marty Howard had everything setup with parking. Weather was great but the bees were a problem.

Archway Old Club-Trivia was a blast even though Brian dominated the rounds.

Honor Flight has their 100<sup>th</sup> flight 11/1

### 7:03 – New Business

Gateway GTO Annual Christmas Party- December 10<sup>th</sup> at Webster Groves Barn- \$25/person due by Nov 30th to Will Bowers.

Theme-Candy Canes and Cardinals Gala

Bob Blattel is working on a Christmas Toy Drive for 2022

Benefits Employment Connection (in cooperation with United Way)

Drop off at location on a flyer or at the Winslow's.

### 7:17-Scheduled upcoming Events

Saturday Dec 10<sup>th</sup>-Gateway GTO Christmas Party

Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup>-Gateway GTO Pizza Party at Crusoe's in Oakville.

Bring your Gateway GTO Dues to renew for 2023. GTOAA mail in.

Chris needs articles for the newsletter.

### 7:19 GTOAA

Planning for 2023 has started for Springfield IL. Tom Oxler talked about volunteering and to sign up.

Only 12 ½ days slots left to volunteer.

Registration is now open

Gateway will be sponsoring the Band for the parking lot party.

### 7:11 Tech

Old and New GTO tech issues

Jessie Gill has a breakdown on his return trip home from Pontiac. Broke down 15 miles from IL. The ignition coil \$29.00, drive shaft has oil coming from it. Got his car back on 11/2

Still looking for parts to assist with the restoration of Officer Kunze's 1966 GTO

### 7:14 Club Personnel's

Sandra Melrose is still recovering and doing much better. She's planning on attending the Christmas party.

Terry Schott is having a hip replaced in 2 weeks.

Jon Havens still has some long haul covid issues.

Earl Lewis had a stress test and did ok.

Sharon & Ron Wildebrandt have covid but doing ok

### 7:39 Adjourn

Brian O'Sullivan/Earl Lewis

**Next club meeting will be Thursday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at Gingham's. 2023**

50/50 won by Jim McCarthy \$30.00





# Alan Finkenbinder's Pontiac Story



## My addiction to Pontiac's By Alan and Liane Finkenbinder

I grew up on a large family farm located 6 miles west of Odell, Illinois. It was an active farm, farming over 600 acres of ground (considered large in the 60's) and operating a couple of custom hay balers and several corn shellers. My dad also operated a repair shop on the farm and was the township road commissioner for a while. We usually had several hired hands to help out with the custom work.

In the shop my dad rebuilt/modified engines, tractors, trucks and almost anything requested of him including body work and painting. I remember even building a stock car or two for the local track in Fairbury. He would shorten or lengthen truck frames, drive shafts and would even weld up cracked cast iron blocks/heads.

As a young boy (from a family of 6) we were introduced to all things mechanical by helping out in the shop and farm operations. We began with Shetland Pony's & Horses and eventually go-karts & Minibikes. Later while helping out with the corn shellers and balers we would spot old cars left sitting on the neighboring farms. Eventually we started dragging some of them home to see if we could get them running to drive around on the country roads. (I think this is where my collecting began). In junior high we began to read the Hot Rod magazines and noticed a local legend racing Pontiac's. (Farmer Beswick) Since living near the town of Pontiac, IL. and the aspirations to have something other than a Chevy or Ford, we began favoring Pontiac's, especially the GTO's.

My first licensed car was a 65 GTO in which I installed a 400 engine at 15 years old. It wasn't long and cars came and went, attended college, career, engagement and marriage in Sept of 1978 (Liane). I then sold everything and upgraded to a Grand-Prix to begin family life. It wasn't long though and I began collecting cars again as we had purchased a farm-stead which included several large (Empty) farm buildings. Early on I collected 20's & 30's cars such as Packard's, Franklin's, etc., but eventually went back to my passion of Pontiac's.

My collection has grown over the years but didn't include a GTO Judge. To resolve that I began looking for one and eventually purchased a 69 Carousel Red Judge in Sept of 1998. Liane and I traveled to Bryon, IL. to look at the car. The car was owned by a gentleman who had recently lost his son due to an accident and had reluctantly decided to sell it. It came equipped with the 400 RAIV and had been converted to an automatic with hand controls to accommodate his Vietnam war injuries. He had even grudge raced it at the Bryon drag strip with hand controls! Lucky for me he had saved the original steering column, 4 speed trans, console and all the misc. parts to put it back to original. I need to note that if it were not for Liane I may not have come to terms while negotiating the price on this one. We were only 500 apart and neither of us would give in. After several days Liane finally got tired of me whining about it and instructed me to just pay the price and get it. Wow what a great wife!

We did take the car to several area cruise-ins, but found we couldn't go far with the 390 gearing. It was on display in the Pontiac/Oakland Museum and in front of The Bank of Pontiac for some time and has been to a couple of the first GTO AA Regional shows in Pontiac. It has been in storage for many years but due to the coaxing of several Gateway GTO members (No names here) and my grandsons, I have it out once again. Hopefully soon I will find the time to reunite the 4-speed back to as originally equipped. (Been saying that for 20 plus years now!)

I have always stated that when I retire, I will start reducing the size of my collection and up-grade in quality. Moving in that direction last fall, (Oct, 2021) I actually sold 8 cars from my



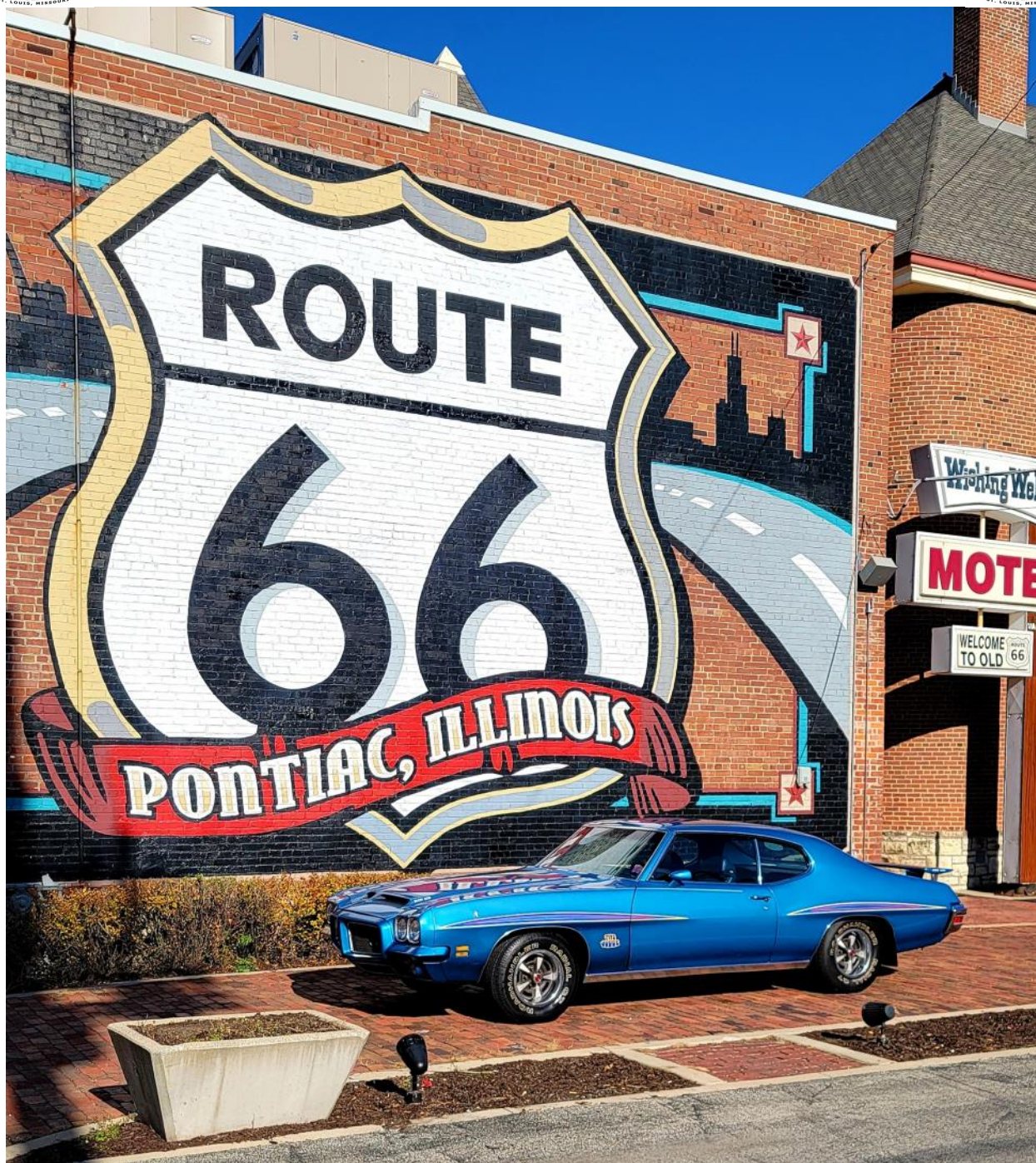


collection including the low mileage original 1968 (Verdoro Green) GTO. To follow through with my plan and to help with my seller's remorse I began searching for an up-grade. I eventually located an original (numbers matching) Lucerne blue 1971 GTO Judge with 455HO, 4-spd and A/C. It certainly has helped out with my seller's remorse as well!

This summer (June/July) I let 2 more cars go continuing with the reduction of the collection. I do admit I also added 1 as well! Liane and I traveled to Gainesville, GA. to pick up a 1989 Firebird Banditt II with plans to attend the Firebird Fest 2023 in St. Louis. In the future my collection will continue to decrease in numbers and gain in quality. At least, that's my plan and I'm sticking to it! (Ha Ha!)

Someday I need to document all the cars I have owned and or still have in my collection. I have been very blessed to be able to have owned all the cars, tractors, Roof mowers, etc. and that Liane tolerates and actually enjoys the activities we attend and the friends we have met throughout the years.

# Alan Finkenbinder's Pontiac Story







Blattel & Associates

# HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

to benefit the clients and families of Employment Connection  
a United Way of Greater St. Louis partner agency

We're collecting donations of new or gently used, unwrapped toys to support families on the path to self-sufficiency. Drop off your donations at the businesses below between **November 1st and December 2nd** and help light up the eyes of children and families in need!

## DROP-OFF SITES

Blattel & Associates 1258 Jungermann Rd.

Cutter & Company 15415 Clayton Rd.

Dudas Fitness 3963 Old Highway 94

Rosciglione Bakery 2265 Bluestone Dr.

Thies Farm 3200 Greens Bottom Rd.

Nutrition Stop 4101 Mexico Rd.



Email [info@blattels.com](mailto:info@blattels.com)  
for more information





*\*Tis the Season  
For the  
Gateway GTO  
Holiday Party*

## *Cardinals and Candy Canes Gala*

*Red and White is the theme for the night*

**December 10, 2022 5:00 – 10:00PM**

Webster Groves Barn  
1155 South Rock Hill Road  
Webster Groves, Missouri 63119

*BYOB, Buffet Meal at \$25 per person  
Bring a Rob-Your-Neighbor Gift (\$20-\$30)*

*Desserts Always Welcome*

**For Reservations send a check by November 30<sup>th</sup> to:**

Will Bowers  
4213 Napa View Lane  
Saint Charles, Missouri 63304



# **Gateway GTO**

## **Membership Renewal**

**Gateway GTO Dues for 2023 are \$20 and are due by the annual Gateway GTO Pizza Party.**

- Send dues to Will Bowers by mail or pay in person at the Next Meeting  
Will's Address:  
4213 Napa View Lane  
St. Charles, MO 63304
- In order to Renew with Gateway GTO, members must be members in good standing with GTOAA.

Contact Chris Winslow if you have any questions on renewing your Gateway GTO membership



# GATEWAY GTO ASSOCIATION

## Membership/**Renewal** Form

(Please print clearly)

☐ New

☐ Renewal

☐ Returning

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Name (Spouse/Significant Other): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Year & Body Style of Car(s) **ALL PONTIACS:**

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Auto related interests, hobbies or talents:

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**GTO Association of America membership number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GTO Association of America membership renewal date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(found on address label of *Legend*)

### **PLEASE FILL IN ALL FIELDS**

**And mail to:**

Will Bowers, Treasurer  
Gateway GTO Association  
4213 Napa View Lane  
St. Charles, MO 63304

Membership dues are \$20.

You are allowed one associate member (spouse, significant other, etc.).

**All Gateway GTO Members must also be members in good standing with GTOAA**

**Go to [WWW.GTOAA.ORG](http://WWW.GTOAA.ORG) to join or renew GTOAA membership**



# GTOAA Membership Renewal

**GTOAA Dues are to be paid directly to  
GTOAA**

- Do not send GTOAA dues to Will Bowers. Instead renew directly with GTOAA by mail or at [www.gtoaa.org](http://www.gtoaa.org).
- All Gateway GTO Members must be GTOAA members in good standing.
- Please contact GTOAA Chapter Representative Tom Oxler with any questions:

## **Tom Oxler Contact Info:**

Phone: 636-928-5548

Email: [toxler@prodigy.net](mailto:toxler@prodigy.net)



## 2022/2023 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### November

3 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

### December

10 - Gateway GTO Annual Christmas Party at the Webster Barn 5:00 to 10:00

### January

15 - (Tentative) Gateway GTO Annual Pizza Party at Crusoe's (Details to follow)

### February

2 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

**SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT [WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG](http://WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG)**

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**Gateway GTO Classifieds**



*Tammy Hedrick  
Hedrick Insurance Agency  
558 Gravois Road, Suite 201  
Fenton, MO 63026  
636.492.5180 (office)  
314.540.4122 (cell/text)  
[thedrick@farmersagent.com](mailto:thedrick@farmersagent.com)*



*Let us protect your life and those things you need to make it work. We'll leave the cruising to you!*

(314) 838-5533

### Jon's Tri-Power Service

Jon F. Havens  
Owner

126 Afshari Drive  
Florissant, MO 63034  
[jfhavens@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jfhavens@sbcglobal.net)

(314) 496-7368

### Jonathan's Q Jet Service

Jonathan Havens

13 Shamblin Dr.  
Florissant, MO 63034

**CustomAutoApparel.com**

[CLICK HERE FOR GATEWAY GTO APPAREL CLUB STORE](#)



## GATEWAY GTO ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

### President

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Bob Blattel  
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636-441-3141  
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### Vice President Mo

Brian O'Sullivan  
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### Treasurer

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St. Charles, MO 63304  
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[wwbdsb@yahoo.com](mailto:wwbdsb@yahoo.com)

### GTOAA Chapter Rep.

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St. Charles, MO 63304  
636-928-5548  
[toxler@prodigy.net](mailto:toxler@prodigy.net)

### Club Events Chairman

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### Newsletter Editor

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### Photographer

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644 Emge Rd.  
O'Fallon MO 63366  
636-294-8104  
[chriswinslow@charter.net](mailto:chriswinslow@charter.net)

## Advertising Guidelines

Classified ads are free to members. Classified ads up to 50 words for non-members are \$5.00 per issue.

## Gateway GTO Club Information

The Gateway GTO Association was initially formed in the summer of 1984 by a group of seven. They all had a common interest in the Original Muscle Car, the Pontiac GTO. As a form of communication we publish a monthly newsletter called "The Hood Scoop". The purpose of this newsletter is to keep our members informed of all upcoming activities as well as providing interesting event coverage. The club meets every first Thursday of the month at Gingham's, 1566 Country Club Plaza Drive, St. Charles, MO 63303

The yearly dues for Gateway GTO is \$20. The dues are due by the Pizza Party in January. All Gateway GTO members must be a member in good standing with GTOAA. You are allowed to have one associate member.

## Gateway GTO Association Photo Album

If you have photos of past events or if you take pictures of future events that you think would be good for our Photo Album, please send them to the newsletter editor.

The Hood Scoop is published as an informative news bulletin to keep our members up to date on past, present, and future events.

Advertising is free for members in good standing.

Advertising rates for non members are:

\$100 – Full page (Color or Black and White) ad in monthly *Hoodscoop* newsletter for 12 months, your logo on our Website Sponsor page, and a link to your website from our Related Website Link space.

\$50 – ½ page (Color or Black and White) ad in our monthly *Hoodscoop* newsletter for 12 months, your logo on our Website Sponsor page, and a link to your website from our Related Website Link space.

\$25 – Business Card (Color or Black and White) ad in our monthly *Hoodscoop* newsletter for 12 months, your logo on our Website Sponsor page, and a link to your website from our Related Website Link space.



The Gateway GTO Association  
is an official chapter of the  
GTO Association of America  
[www.gtoaa.org](http://www.gtoaa.org)

Visit us at  
[www.gatewaygto.org](http://www.gatewaygto.org) or  
[www.gatewaygto.com](http://www.gatewaygto.com)

644 Emge Road  
O'Fallon, MO 63366

