



Gateway GTO Christmas Party



Gateway GTO Annual Christmas Party By Chris Winslow



The final event for Gateway GTO for the year is always our annual Christmas party. It is a time for all of us to get together for fun and some great food.

For many years Sandra Melrose, with help from Mark, has been the driving force behind this event. This year, despite significant health challenges earlier in the year, Sandra pulled off another great event! This year the theme was Cardinals and Candy Cane Gala. The event lived up to that name with cardinals everywhere from the napkins to the centerpieces and close to 1000 candy canes.

Attendance this year was excellent with 54 members at the event. Some members, including the Rays, the Finkenbinders, the Wildebrandts and the Sideners came a long way to attend. Unfortunately, Dan and Anita Jackson ran into travel issues and were not able to make it.

Sandra had arranged for the food again this year and as always it was excellent. There was roast beef, ham, green beans, potatoes, mostaccioli, salads, and chicken spiedini.

After dinner we had a few announcements and some games and giveaways. Rich Hentschel from Hagerty gave away some prizes. Hagerty also helped us out by donating \$500 towards our party. This is a huge help as the cost for this event each year far exceeds the amount that we take in on it.

After Rich, I made a few announcements. This included announcing the official date for the Gateway GTO Pizza Party for 2023 as January 22nd. In addition, I recognized some of the

Gateway GTO Christmas Party



Gateway GTO Christmas Party

people that regularly help me during the year to keep Gateway GTO running smoothly. Recognized were Gail Schott who has been proofing the newsletter for a number of years now, Marty Howard for helping to organized a number of activities in 2022, Jim McCarthy for keeping the club roster up to date, and Earl Lewis for all of his 50/50 and other fund raising efforts. I also recognized Sandra Melrose for all of the years that she has been organizing the Christmas Party.

After the announcements, Sandra and Mark had two games planned. The first was a contest to see which table could, without using a cell phone, name the most cars that were named after birds. The second game was more of a skill contest. For that game, each member received 2 bowls, 6 candy canes, and chopstick. The goal was to place a chopstick in your mouth and use it to transfer the candy canes from one bowl to the other.

After the games it was time for our annual Rob You Neighbor gift exchange. This year Marty suggested that we move the tables to the side and have all of the member sit in a large





Gateway GTO Christmas Party



circle so that we could all see the gifts better as they were opened. That turned out to be a great idea and made the gift exchange a lot more fun.



So, as always, Sandra pulled off a great event and everyone truly enjoyed it. It was bit bitter-sweet this year, as Sandra announced that, after many years organizing this party, that this would be her last year.

Sandra has done an amazing job over many years pulling this event together for us. It will be challenging for next year for us to carry on with the tradition of planning and executing this party in a way that will keep up with the standard Sandra has set for the event. I want to thank Sandra for all of her hard work over the years organizing this party each year!

