



THE HOOD SCOOP

January 2026

Gateway GTO
Association

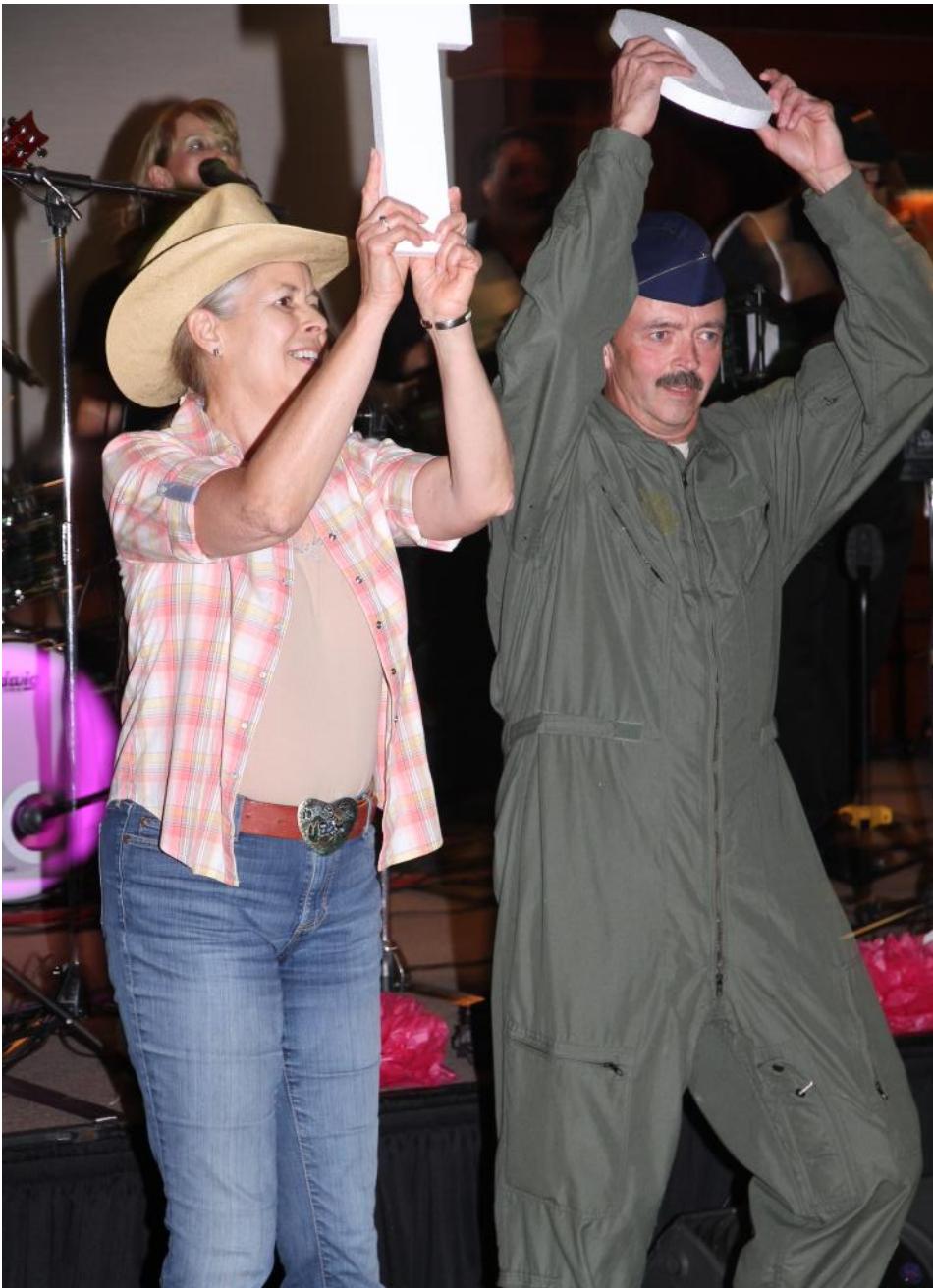


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Gateway GTO Mourns the Loss of Beth Butcher

by Chris Winslow



We started 2026 on a very sad note with the passing of Beth on January 4th. As most of you know, Beth had been battling health issues for the last few years. Beth was a major force in the GTO hobby. It is hard to imagine what GTOAA would look like today, or if it would even still exist, had it not been for



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Beth Butcher



her tireless efforts in support of the organization over the years. But, on top of all of that, she was a genuinely nice person that we are all going to miss in the years to come.

Below is a memoriam that Tom Szymczyk put together for Beth. Please keep Beth and Bob in your thought and prayers.



It is with profound sadness that we report the passing of our colleague, mentor, and dear friend Beth Butcher.

Beth served GTOAA for thirty-nine years, as Corporate Secretary and Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, *Legend* editor, Database Manager, Convention Treasurer, Convention Registration Coordinator, and Board of Directors member. Very often, Beth did three or four of those jobs all at once.

Beth was never one to seek the spotlight. She worked behind the scenes to make sure everything happened on time



and on budget. Magazines got printed and mailed, conventions got funded, staff expenses got reimbursed, and the bills got paid. You never saw Beth "speechifying" at our conventions. She did her many jobs with care and dedication, always without fanfare.

When I joined GTOAA in 1993, Beth was Treasurer, Membership Coordinator, Director, and *Legend* editor. She was also working a full time "regular job" as well and raising her daughter Gwen.

Early in her GTOAA career, Beth and her late husband, Gary, personally funded the printing and mailing of *The Legend* when some previous officers left the club in less than perfect shape.

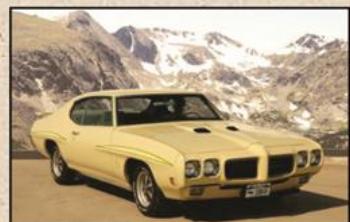
Along with Bob and Connie Maher, Beth and Gary kept the GTOAA in business during a very chaotic and unstable period. It is uncertain if GTOAA could have survived without their dedication and effort.

I think it is fair to say that Beth has done more for the Association than anyone else in our club's history. Dedicating more than half her life to the GTOAA, she performed her various jobs with honesty, integrity, and unswerving loyalty.

Beth is survived by her second husband, Bob Alexander, her daughter Gwen, and grandchildren Isabella and Sofia Quiroga.

At the GTOAA convention this July in Loveland, Colorado, we will have a celebration of Beth's life and career with the GTOAA. Her Sierra Yellow 1970 Judge will be on display in the host hotel.

--Tom Szymczyk, *Legend* editor





Gateway GTO Pizza Party

Gateway GTO Pizza Party

By Chris Winslow



Our first event of 2026 was our annual Gateway GTO Pizza Party on Sunday, January 18th. This was our second year at Fortel's Pizza Den in South County.

Despite the bitter cold, we had a nice turnout and filled up most of the room

We had ordered the pizzas and salad ahead of time and everyone got their own drinks. Like last year, that worked out really well and avoided the issues we had seen in previous years waiting for drinks and salads to come out. Fortel's also did a great job of getting the pizzas out right on time and all at once, so we were not waiting for pizzas to come out a few at a time.

Will was busy with lots of folks renewing their Gateway GTO membership and we got to see some members that are not often able to make our normal monthly meetings at Gingham's. It was also a great opportunity to catch up with everyone and figure out what winter projects we all have underway (or at least planned)!

Thanks to everyone for coming!



Presidents Scoop



The President's Scoop

By Chris Winslow

As I wrote in the opening article in this newsletter, the passing of Beth Butcher was a very sad way to start the year. Within GTOAA, we are planning a remembrance of Beth at our convention this year in Loveland, CO. For those of you that may not have seen it, I have included the link to Beth's obituary here: [Beth's Obituary](#) That page has links to two causes that Beth's family has identified if you would like to make a donation in Beth's memory.

Beth is a nominee for induction into the Pontiac Hall of Fame. For those of you that vote yearly for inductees, I encourage you to make Beth your #1 choice for 2026. For those that have never voted, please consider going to this page, [Pontiac Preservation Association Contact Page](#) and send them a message asking to be included in the online induction voting.

Each year in January, Will Bowers prepares Gateway GTO's annual financial report for the previous year. I have that report included in this newsletter. For 2025, we had a net loss of \$3495.88. We did have one unusual expense in that our website hosting came up due for renewal in 2025 (occurs once every 10 years) and that by itself cost us \$2019.18. Without that expense, we would have had a net loss of \$1476.70. The reason that we are running the deficit is simple, we are taking in less money in annual dues than we are spending to support club activities and expenses. In the coming months I will plan to discuss all of this at our monthly meetings to get a sense for how the club membership would like to address this long term. In the mean time, if you have not already renewed your Gateway GTO membership yet, please do so by the end of the month. Everyone that does this by January 31st will be entered in the raffle for the Mark Obukowicz collectible items shown later in this newsletter. The winners will be announced at the February meeting.

Our Chief Entertainment Officer, Marty, is already on it for 2026. He has scheduled our 12th annual Pinball Wizard Tournament. I have included the flyer with the details for that event later in this newsletter. For those of you planning to attend, please let Marty know by February 8th so he will have a good head count.

Also, just a reminder that for 2026 our monthly meetings will occur on the first Thursday of each month February through November at Gingham's in St. Charles. The meetings start at 7:00 and many of us arrive earlier for dinner and some socializing before the meeting.





Gateway GTO Financial Report for 2025

GATEWAY GTO ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY AS OF 12/31/25

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE 12/31/24

\$16,609.52

INCOME

DUES	1,540.00		
50/50	356.00		
CHRISTMA PARTY	1,150.00		
REGIONALS	5,340.00		
	2025 INCOME	8,386.00	8,386.00

24,995.52

EXPENSES

PIZZA PARTY	506.08		
WEB EXP.	2,019.18		
CHRISTMAS PARTY	2,463.19		
REGIONAL MEET			
EXP.	1,860.22		
CK TO MUSEUM	3,800.00		
PICNIC	220.82		
KIDS WITH CANCER	406.71		
GTOAA DUES	80.00		
D&O INSURANCE	504.00		
SERVICE CHARGE	1.68		
	2025 EXPENSES	11,861.88	11,861.88

CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE 12/31/25

\$13,113.64

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:**

Auto related interests, hobbies or talents:

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 to join or renew GTOAA membership



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Gateway GTO Membership Renewal

Gateway GTO Dues for 2026 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





2026 Pinball Wizard Tournament



WHAT: 12th ANNUAL GATEWAY GTO PINBALL WIZARD EVENT

WHERE: ATOMIC PINBALL ARCADE, 102 WHITELAW AVE, WOOD RIVER, IL, 62095

WHEN: SUNDAY, February 22, 2026 ***** SAVE THIS DATE *****

TIME: Noon – 3:00 pm (3 hours)

NOTE: DINNER AFTERWARDS:

3:30 pm: Bluff City Grill, 424 East Broadway, Alton, IL 62002, 618-433-8288

***** MUST HAVE DINNER GUEST COUNT BY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 *****

ADMISSION PRICE: \$20/PLAYER (NOTE: A \$5 INCREASE DUE TO COST OF RENTAL INCREASE)

Atomic Pinball (ATOMICPINBALLARCADE.COM) in Wood River, IL., is an 8,000 sq. ft. Pinball Spectacular with Over 125 Pinball Games, Video Games, Skee Ball, and More! At Atomic Pinball Arcade, Private Parties are a blast for kids and even more fun for parents! Bring your own drinks, snacks, and party decorations! Alcohol is permitted, but must be consumed responsibly.

- Pay me on arrival— Exact cash appreciated.
- Kitchen, washrooms, and refrigerators plus rest areas.
- Plenty of parking in Atomic Pinball parking lot attached to building, or out front or back.
- You can invite anyone, and any number of players, to join in the fun. Kids, too.
- **Please RSVP before Sunday, February 8, 2026.**
- I will send out a final notice of players on Sunday, February 15, 2026.

**Please let me know via email (nvcgto@att.net) or home phone (636-724-8641),
or cell/text (314-640-0959):**

1. **How many people in your party**
2. **Name of each person**

If you are considering participating in the “GTO Pinball Wizard Tournament”, as most have in the past, you can sign up when you arrive although it would be appreciated if you send me this info before the RSVP date:

NOTES:

- Don’t be afraid. We are all here to have fun!
- Most members have not played pinball in a long time, or have only played at Club Howard, Pinball events or have never played but have joined in just for the fun of it.
- You have nothing to lose and bragging rights to win. Plus, your picture in our newsletter.



2026 Pinball Wizard Tournament



- This event, as in previous years, has turned out to be a hoot! Much Fun!!
 - The tournament will take 2 hours, 12:30 – 2:30 pm, to complete.
 - Prizes will be awarded at the end of the tournament.
 - IF YOU ENTER THE “GTO PINBALL WIZARD TOURNAMENT”, YOU NEED TO ARRIVE **BY NOON**, IN ORDER TO REGISTER BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT. TOURNAMENT WILL START AT **12:30 PM SHARP** TO ALLOW TIME TO COMPLETE THE TOURNAMENT BY 2:30 PM. YOU CAN PRACTICE ON ALL MACHINES AFTER YOU REGISTER UP UNTIL 12:30 PM. LEAVE EXTRA TRAVELING TIME IF NECESSARY.
 - Prizes will be awarded at the end of the tournament.
- *** PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE EARLIER THAN 11:45 AM SINCE THE MANAGEMENT WILL BE CLEANING UP FROM THE WEEKEND ***
- Remember: You want **The Thrill of Victory** and not **The Agony of Defeat!!**

Those that do not want to participate in the Tournament:

- You are more than welcome to play any of the games for the entire afternoon.
- ** The only specific rule here is: If a player is in the ‘Tournament’ and needs to play that machine, the tournament player must be granted 1st choice.
- You can arrive anytime during playing hours and still enter the tournament since winners are calculated by most games played along with most games won. Also, you can come and go as you please.
- LET THE GAMES BEGIN !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

MOST OF ALL, HAVE FUN!!!

See ya there.....Marty Howard, CEC



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Signed Art Fitzpatrick Print



GTO Print "Goat Gathering"





GTO Print



GTO Die Cast #1





Mark Obukowicz Collectibles



GTO Diecast #2



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.
- All Gateway GTO Members must be GTOAA members in good standing.
- Please contact GTOAA Chapter Representative Steve Hedrick with any questions:

Steve Hedrick Contact Info:

Phone: 314-640-4020

Email: sthedrick@aol.com



2026 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

18 - Annual Gateway GTO Pizza Party at Fortel's Pizza Den, 1:00 to 3:30, 7932 Mackenzie Road, St. Louis MO 63123

February

5 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

22 - Gateway GTO 12th Annual Pinball Wizard Tournament at Atomic Pinball Arcade, 102 Whitelaw Ave. Wood River, IL 62095 at 12:00

March

5 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

14 - Marine Corps St. Patrick's Day Dance - Details to follow

April

2 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's

5 - Easter Car Show - Details to follow

SEE THE FULL CALENDAR AT WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG

Gateway GTO Classifieds

For Sale:

Alternator for 2006 GTO (Used but tests good)

\$50 with a 90 day warranty

Call: Frank Chapman

(314) 838-5533

Jon's Tri-Power Service

Jon F. Havens
Owner

126 Afshari Drive
Florissant, MO 63034
jfhavens@sbcglobal.net

(314) 496-7368

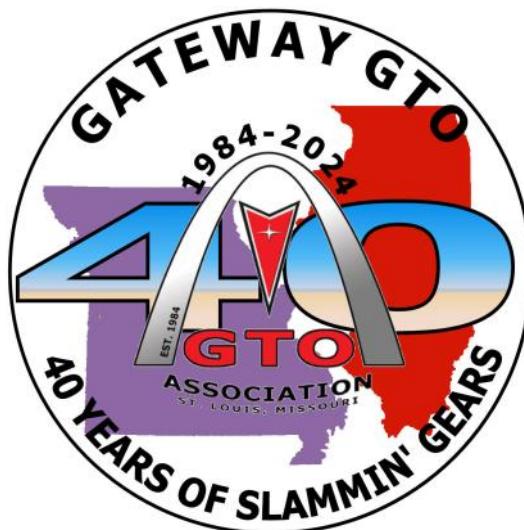
Jonathan's Q Jet Service

Jonathan Havens

13 Shamblin Dr.
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[Gateway GTO Club Store](#)



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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.



The Gateway GTO Association
is an official chapter of the
GTO Association of America
www.gtoaa.org

Visit us at
www.gatewaygto.org or
www.gatewaygto.com

644 Emge Road
O'Fallon, MO 63366

