



# THE HOOD SCOOP

March 2026

## Gateway GTO Remembers Sandra Melrose by Chris Winslow

Gateway GTO  
Association



It was with a very heavy heart that I reported to the club of the passing of Sandra Melrose earlier this month on March 8th.

Sandra was a major fixture in the club including years of planning and executing our annual Christmas party. Even today, the parties largely follow the blueprint she designed back when Mark was Gateway's president.

Sandra also organized other events for Gateway. Most recently, this included some outings for the club at the Alton Little Theater to watch some plays including the play *The Four Poster*.

As most know, Sandra had been facing a series of health challenges in recent years. After having spent a good day with her immediate family on Saturday, she passed quietly early on the morning of Sunday, March 8th.

Sandra will be missed by all of us. Mark has let me know that he plans a Celebration of Life event for Sandra in the near future. Please keep Mark and Sandra and their children in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

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# Gateway GTO Remembers Sandra Melrose



# Presidents Scoop

## The President's Scoop

By Chris Winslow

On March 20th, Spring officially arrived on the calendar. For the St. Louis car hobby, however, the official start of spring, and opening of the car show season, is Easter, This year Easter comes early on April 5th. Hopefully for 2026 we will have some great weather, unlike the storms that kept most of our cars in the garage last year. For the car show in Forest Park, we have 12 cars signed up to attend. For the car show in St. Charles it is not too late to plan to attend. If you want to go to that one please give Earl Lewis a call so he can make sure to have room for you.

The other really big event we have planned for April this year is 421 day organized on the 21st by Steve Hedrick. It will take place at the Sawmill BBQ Pub & Grill on Old Des Peres Road. See the flyer in this newsletter for more details. Steve is promising prizes, trivia and also celebrities!

As we move into May, things get busy. First up is our annual participation on the Imanuel Lutheran parade on May 2nd. This year Earl has arranged for a fire truck to participate, so that should make it really interesting. Following that we have Gateway GTO day at the Red Cedar Inn in Pacific on the 23rd. Terry and Gail Schott have organized a lunch and other activities to follow in the afternoon, so that looks to be a really fun day.

Next up in May we will have double duty on May 30th with the Wheels In Motion Car show at the Church on the Rock during the day and the Marine Trivia night that evening at the Elks Lodge in Arnold.

In June, we have been invited to attend the 16th Pontiac Tribute day in Blue Springs put on by the KC Arrowheads Car Club. Paula and I went to that show last year and we really enjoyed it so we are planning to go again this year. We will likely plan for an early morning caravan leaving from our house in O'Fallon and jumping on highway 70 for the cruise to the show. There are also a number of other shows and events, many with Route 66 Centennial themes, on our calendar on the website. I have included many of the flyers in this newsletter.

Speaking of caravans, with the National coming up in July, Tom and Terrie Oxler have organized a caravan to drive to Colorado for the 2026 GTOAA Nationals. See the flyer in this newsletter for more details.

Finally, as I noted in the opening article, please keep the Melrose family in your thoughts and prayers at this trying time. We will all miss our good friend, Sandra.





# Gateway GTO Meeting Minutes



## Minutes 3/5/26

### 7:11 PM – Meeting Start

No new members this month.

### 7:13 PM – Old Business

Chris Winslow talked about the Gateway GTO Annual Pinball Tournament. Approximately 40 members were in attendance. Winners were Rick Hipes-1<sup>st</sup>, Brett Bowers-2<sup>nd</sup>, Gail Schott-3<sup>rd</sup> and Matthew Busch-4<sup>th</sup>. Chris thanked Marty for another great tournament.

### 7:15 PM – New Business and Upcoming Events

Chris Winslow talked about the New Smoke Signals Editor, Scott Scheel, has run at article on our GTOAA Regional car show at the Pontiac Museum in his first Smoke Signals edition (Gateway's write up with his own photos including a nice photo of Steve Hedrick's '67 and Lynn Johnson's '69).

Chris talked about the Marine Corp League St. Patrick's Day dance on March 14<sup>th</sup> in Arnold. Steve Hedrick has tickets to sell.

The next event Chris talked about was the Easter Car show at Forest Park on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$15 per car and the deadline to sign up is March 20<sup>th</sup>. Please let Chris know if you are planning to attend.

Earl Lewis talked about the Easter Car Show at the St. Charles Family Arena. Please see Earl about that show.

Chris had Steve Hedrick talk about 421 Day at Sawmill BBQ Pub & Grill in Des Peres. There is a flyer on the website.

Chris talked about the Immanuel Lutheran Parade on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Some members volunteered to drive in the parade to escort the Veterans to Blanchette Park for the church picnic.

Chris talked about Gateway GTO Day at the Red Cedar Inn on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. A cruise is being worked on the event and lunch after at Poor Richards in Eureka. Terry and Gail are working on this event.

Chris talked about the first Wheels in Motion car show this year at Church on the Rock on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Also, the Marine Corp Trivia Night will be held on May 30<sup>th</sup>.

Since April is pretty much open except for 4-21 day, Chris asked people to think about ideas for a Saturday cruise.

Sharon mentioned a car cruise on June 27<sup>th</sup> in Cuba, MO. The flier will be on the website.

### 7:29 PM – GTOAA

Steve Hedrick talked about the upcoming National Convention in Colorado. Activities are filling up.

Steve also talked about going to the Pontiacs at Pigeon Forge on June 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>.

Tom Oxler talked about a planned caravan to the National Convention. The flier will be on the website.

### 7:39 - TECH

Chris and Terry Schott talked about getting the distributor machine working.

### 7:41 – PERSONALS

Will Bowers is recovering from a recent fall at home. Probably should stay off a ladder.

Ron Wildebrandt is scheduled for a hip replacement in March.

Sharon Mercer is still recovering her fall in December. Sharon is a member of the club that manages the Wheel in Motion Car Show.

Gail Schott talked about Steve Douglass who is recovering from open heart surgery.

Steve Hedrick talked about a Hot Wheels Pontiac collection being sold at Walmart. The 66 GTO is the one that is hard to find.

Steve mentioned that Lucas Hedrick found a place in Southern Missouri that can do powder coating. The big oven can fit a frame.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 after a motion by John Johnson and a second by Brian O'Sullivan.

50/50 of \$40 dollars was won by John Follou.

# 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**



**THE HOOD SCOOP**

# 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



# 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 Steve Hedrick with any questions:

### Steve Hedrick Contact Info:

Phone: 314-640-4020

Email: [sthedrick@aol.com](mailto:sthedrick@aol.com)



# PONTIAC DAY 4-21

**Sawmill BBQ Pub & Grill**

**1090 Old Des Peres Rd Des Peres, MO 63131**

**April 21 @2:42pm (GTO Vin)**

**Celebrate PONTIAC DAY 4-21**

Along with all your Pontiac and GTO friends...

Come out at 2:42pm and enjoy Great food and Great fun

Pontiac and GTO trivia

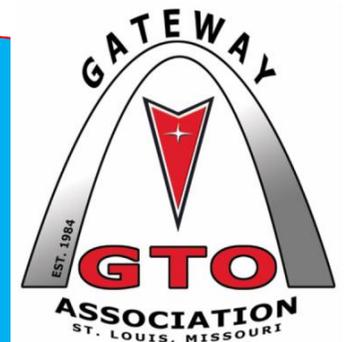
WIN special prizes...Meet Pontiac Celebrities...

You Don't want to miss this...

**100 YEARS**  
100 YEARS



[WWW.GTOAA.ORG](http://WWW.GTOAA.ORG) [WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG](http://WWW.GATEWAYGTO.ORG)



Contact Steve & Tammy Hedrick 314.640.4020

**Trophies for:**

- Pastor's Choice
- Kids Pick
- And More....

**Sno-Cones**  
by the St. Louis Gateway  
Buick Club of America

**30TH BI-ANNUAL**  
**Walter F. Phillips Memorial**  
**Collector Cars Against Cancer**

**Food &  
Drinks**

**Wheels in Motion  
Day**



**Saturday, May 30th, 2026**  
**9 am to 2 pm**

**All Proceeds Benefit Children in their  
Fight with Cancer**



2900 Frank Scott Parkway, Ste 928  
Belleville, IL 62223  
(314) 241-1600



**900 Birdie Hills Rd, St. Peters, MO 63376**

**CAR REGISTRATION: \$25 PER CAR AT EVENT**

**FIRST 150 CARS RECEIVE A COMMEMORATIVE DASH PLAQUE**

**SPONSORS ↓ SPONSORS ↓ SPONSORS ↓ SPONSORS ↓ SPONSORS ↓ SPONSORS**



For more details, call  
Elliott (314) 605-0225 or  
Judi (636) 485-0287

<https://firstcapitolclassics.wixsite.com/autoclub>

Please, No Alcoholic Beverages Allowed!! **A cooperative event of St. Louis Area Car Clubs**

# PONTIAC TRIBUTE DAY 2026



**16th Annual Show and Shine Car and Bike Show**  
A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF TWO AMERICAN ICONS  
Celebrating 100 years of Pontiac and Route 66

**6 JUNE  
2026**  
10 AM - 2PM

**1237 SW RT-7  
BLUE SPRINGS, MO  
(SIDE POCKETS PARKING LOT)**  
////////////////////  
**RAIN OR SHINE**

**OPEN TO ALL MAKES AND MODELS**

**FREE TO  
PUBLIC**

**LIVE DJ  
MUSIC**

**DOOR  
PRIZES**

**EVENT  
SHIRTS**

**Ed's Posse**  
will be in attendance  
collecting donations for  
 **Shriners  
Hospitals  
for Children®**



scan the QR code or visit  
[www.facebook.com/kcarrowheads/](http://www.facebook.com/kcarrowheads/)  
for more information and updates

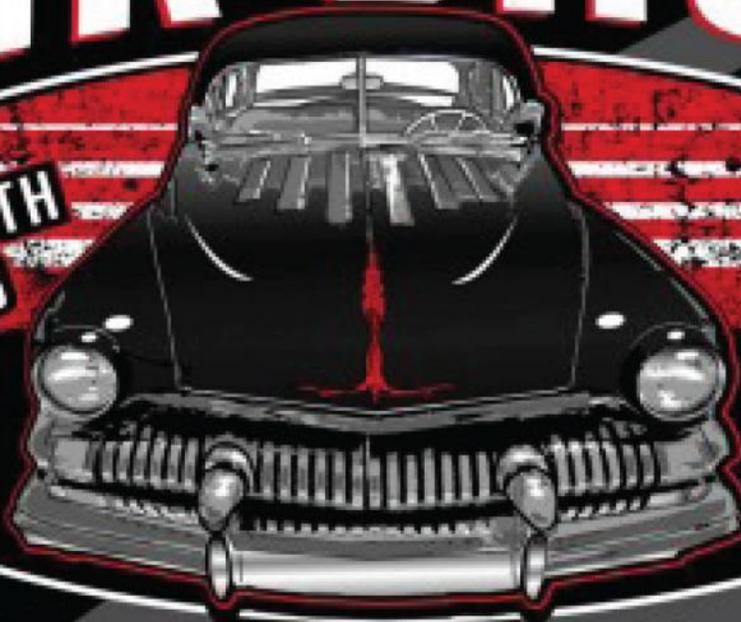


**GRAF & SONS**  
THE RELOADING AUTHORITY  
MEXICO, MISSOURI

# 8TH ANNUAL

# CAR SHOW

**JUNE 20TH  
2026**



**AWARDS  
AT  
3:00 PM**

*Mexico Elks Lodge: 1705 Christopher Rd. Mexico, MO 65269*

• \$30 REGISTRATION - FREE T-SHIRT WITH REGISTRATION •  
BBQ & BEVERAGES SERVED ALL DAY BY THE ELKS - 5 ACRES OF GRASS PARKING

**BEST IN SHOW - \$250.00      MARJ GRAF CHOICE - \$100.00**  
**PEOPLE'S CHOICE - \$100.00      50/50 DRAWING**

**1ST AND 2ND PLACE TROPHIES IN EACH CLASS**

**- CAR CLASSES -**

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| - ORIGINAL PRE 1949     | - CORVETTE 1953-1962    |
| - ORIGINAL 1950-1960    | - CORVETTE 1964-PRESENT |
| - ORIGINAL 1961-1972    | - MUSTANG 1964-1978     |
| - ORIGINAL 1973-1989    | - MUSTANG 1979-PRESENT  |
| - ORIGINAL 1990-2009    | - CAMARO 1967-2002      |
| - SHOWROOM 2010-PRESENT | - CAMARO 2010-PRESENT   |
| - STREET ROD 1900-1934  | - RAT ROD (OPEN)        |
| - STREET ROD 1935-1948  | - JEEP                  |
| - MODIFIED 1949-1963    | - UNDER CONSTRUCTION    |
| - MODIFIED 1964-1973    | - RACE CAR OPEN         |
| - MODIFIED 1974-PRESENT | - FACTORY MUSCLE        |

**- TRUCK CLASSES -**

- STOCK
- MODIFIED
- 4X4

**- MOTORCYCLES -**

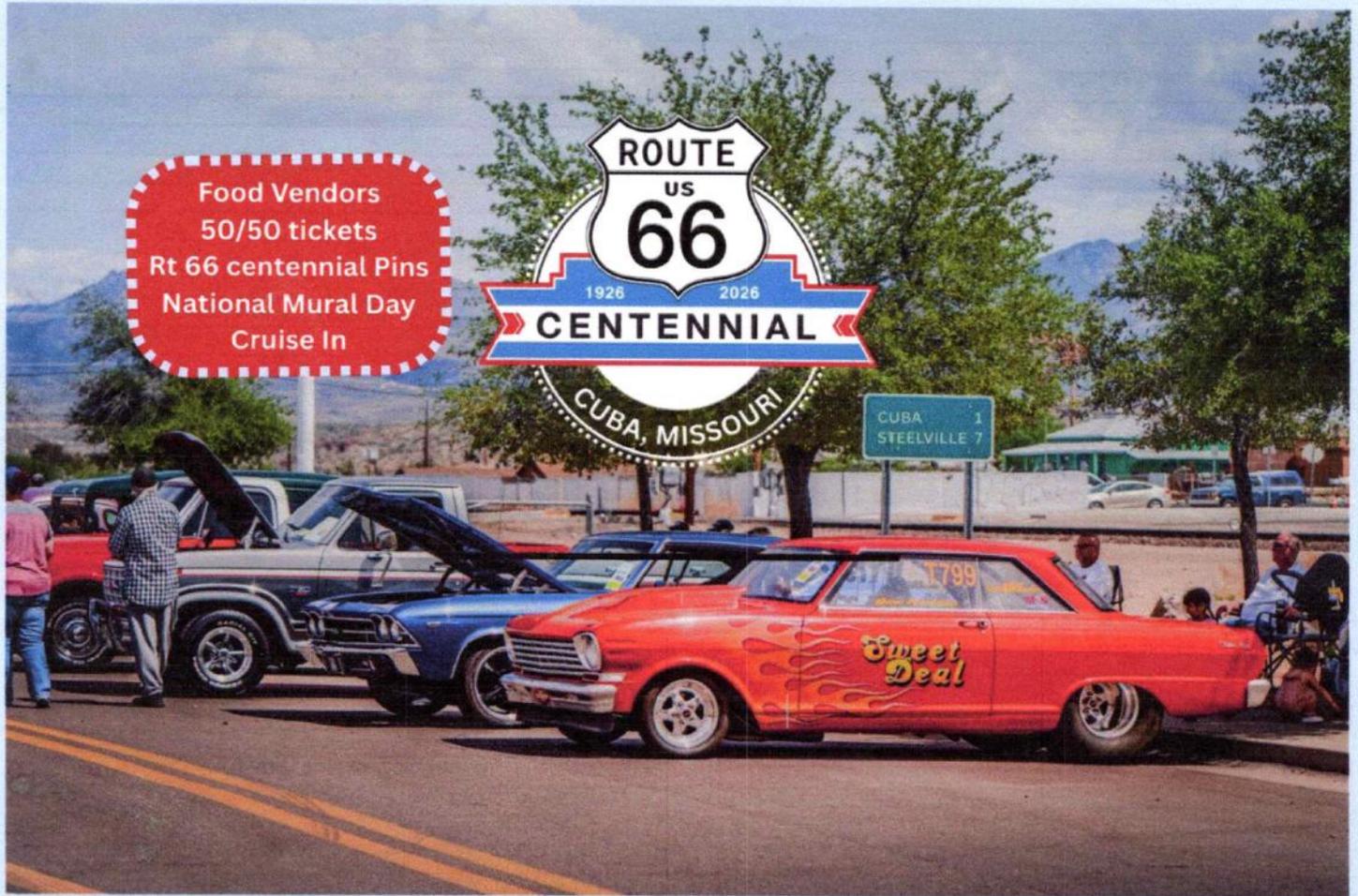
- OPEN
- CRUISER
- VINTAGE

**ALL PROCEEDS  
WILL GO TO  
ELKS CHARITIES**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL**

**SHEILA: 573-721-6264**

**Come Celebrate  
Route 66's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
& Cuba Mural Day  
with us!**



**Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> 11am**

at the Lion's Den  
110 Buchanan Cuba, MO

**Cruise In, Music, 50/50 tickets  
Food Truck Roundup, and more!**

Sponsored by Cuba Arts Council and the Cuba Lions Club



## CRUISE TO THE NATIONALS

### LOVELAND COLORADO

**St. Louis Group:** Monday, July 6 meet at the Redemption Assembly of God Church, 1400 Corporate Pkwy, Wentzville, MO (NE corner of I-64 and Prospect Rd) at 7:30 am. We will leave at 8:00 am and proceed up Hwy 61 to Hannibal to meet the Illinois Group.

**Illinois Group:** Monday, July 6 meet at the Holiday Inn Express, 120 Shinn Ln, Hannibal, MO (1 mile west of Hannibal on Hwy 36) at 9:30 am. We will join forces with the St. Louis Group and leave promptly at 10:00 am heading west on Hwy 35 to Norton, Kansas.

**Hotel for July 6:** Sleep Inn 201 Holmes Rd. Norton, KS 785-871-4112 (\$102-\$130) Leave Norton for Loveland at 8 am Tuesday arrive Loveland at approx. 2 pm

## 2026 GATEWAY GTO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### April

- 2 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's
- 5 - Easter Car Shows
- 21 - 421 Day at Sawmill BBQ Pub & Grill

### May

- 2 - Immanuel Lutheran Church Parade
- 7 - GTO MEETING 7PM at Gingham's
- 23 - Gateway GTO Day at the Red Cedar Inn
- 30 - Wheels in Motion Spring Car Show
- 30 - Marine Trivia

### June

- 6 - 16th Annual Pontiac Tribute Car Show at Blue Springs, MO
- 20 - Car Show at the Elks Lodge in Mexico, MO
- 27 - Route 66 car show at Cuba, MO

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

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### 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](mailto:jfhavens@sbcglobal.net)

(314) 496-7368

### Jonathan's Q Jet Service

Jonathan Havens

13 Shamblin Dr.  
Florissant, MO 63034

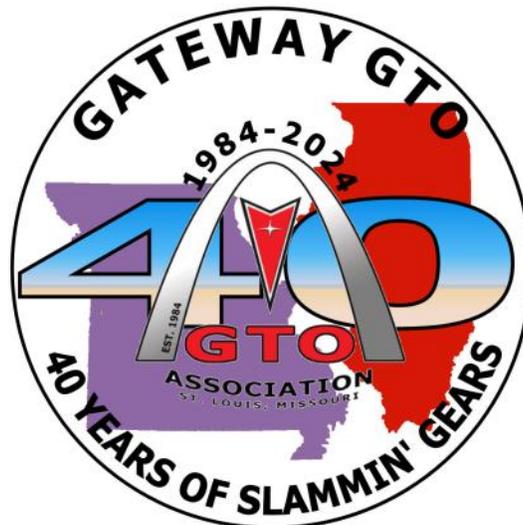
Lewis Insurance Agency  
W Earl Lewis  
LUTCF, CIC, CSP, CSG  
636-219-4932  
[Welewis1949@gmail.com](mailto:Welewis1949@gmail.com)

The  
HAGERTY  
Guy

A photograph of a red classic car with its hood open, showing the engine compartment.

**CustomAutoApparel.com**

[Gateway GTO Club Store](#)



## GATEWAY GTO ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

### President

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

### Vice President II.

Dan Jackson  
P.O. Box 234  
Greenville, IL 62246  
618-267-1760  
[dajalj@gmail.com](mailto:dajalj@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Paula Winslow  
644 Emge Road  
O'Fallon, MO 63366  
636-294-8104  
[pwinslow@charter.net](mailto:pwinslow@charter.net)

### Photo Album Editor

Laura Kiefer  
70 Keystone Drive  
Old Monroe, MO 63369  
[1977kieferla@gmail.com](mailto:1977kieferla@gmail.com)

### Web

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

### Charity Chairman

Bob Blattel  
4564 Austin Knoll Court  
St. Charles MO 63304  
636-441-3141  
[bob@blattels.com](mailto:bob@blattels.com)

### Vice President Mo

Brian O'Sullivan  
2576 Westrick Drive  
Maryland Heights MO 63043  
314-225-7240  
[bosullivan@hunter.com](mailto:bosullivan@hunter.com)

### Treasurer

Will Bowers  
4213 Napa View Lane  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
618-791-3110  
[wvbdsb@yahoo.com](mailto:wvbdsb@yahoo.com)

### GTOAA Chapter Rep.

Steve Hedrick  
3676 Morgan Way  
Imperial, MO 63052  
314-640-4020  
[sthedrick@aol.com](mailto:sthedrick@aol.com)

### Club Events Chairman

Marty Howard  
7 Newcastle CT  
St. Charles MO 63301  
636-724-8641  
[nycgto@att.net](mailto:nycgto@att.net)

### Newsletter Editor

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

### Photographer

Chris Winslow  
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.

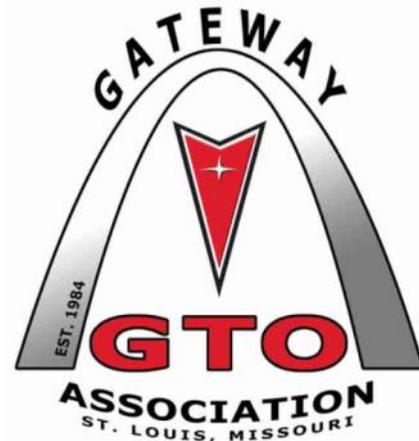
Advertising is free for members in good standing.

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

