



## Gateway GTO 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.

The theme for this year was release your inner penguin and some of our members really took that to heart. Barb and Earl Lewis and Sharon Wilderbrandt even wore penguin costumes!

The turn out this year was great with 48 members at the event. This included the Sullivans and the Finkenbinders, who came from Pontiac Illinois and Roger and Debbie Johnson who came from Pekin, Illinois to attend.

Kenrick's catered the food again this year and it was excellent. Everyone must have agreed as there was very little food left over at the end. Marty took most of what was left to a firehouse after the event, so what was left over did not go to waste.

After dinner, I made a few announcements. I announced that the date for the 2026 Pinball Wizard tournament at Atomic Pinball has been set for February 22nd. I also reminded everyone that the official date for the Gateway GTO Pizza Party at Fortel's Pizza Den for 2026 is January 18th. In addition, I recognized some of the 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 organize a number of activities in 2025, Jim McCarthy for keeping the club roster up to date, Tammy Hedrick for her work helping us with the tabulating of our Regional Car Show in Pontiac, Sharon Wilderbrandt for her help with 50/50 at several of our car shows, and Earl Lewis for all of





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his 50/50 and other fund raising efforts, including all of his work on the two Wheels In Motion car shows. (See the Presidents Scoop for more on that).

Terrie Oxler also made a presentation to Will Bowers and Ron Wildebrandt. It is fairly well known within the club that both Will and Ron are big fans of the KTVI traffic reporter, Kalista Mitrisin. In recognition of that, Terri gave them each a standup cutout of Kalista.



After some party games, we had a rob your neighbor gift exchange, but with a new twist that Marty came up with where for the first round everyone just grabbed a gift. After that, we passed them a few times unopened and then opened them. Once they were open, Marty went







# Gateway GTO Christmas Party



around the circle and had each person show the gift they had opened. Then we went into the traditional rob your neighbor gift exchange. I think the most stolen gift this year was a GTO neon sign, although my favorite item by far was a Pontiac Steering Wheel Cover. (I did not end up with either!!)

Our party this year was a great event and everyone really enjoyed themselves. Thanks to Paula for all of her tireless work to plan such a fun party! She spends untold hours planning every detail and it shows.

