

# BEGINNERS GUIDE TO THE GTOAA NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

**REGISTRATION:** You have 2 methods to register for the GTOAA National Conventions.

The preferred method is to register online by going to [www.gtoaa.org](http://www.gtoaa.org) and clicking the “Electronic Registration” link.

The other method is the printed form found in our monthly magazine, The Legend or downloads the form at [www.gtoaa.org](http://www.gtoaa.org) and click on 20XX Convention and selecting the “registration form” link.

You will need some information available in order to complete your registration so you may want to gather the info below before starting.

## **You will need:**

- 1) Your GTOAA Member number. This can be found on the address label on your copy of The Legend. If you have a GTO or A Body, you must be a member of GTOAA. If you own a non-A body, you can leave the GTOAA number blank.
- 2) If you are going to register a car you will need to decide which show or class you would like to be in. There are 2 shows:  
Concours which is our renown Points Judge show that is usually held on Thursday and our large Popular Vote Show that is usually held on Friday. (Check the schedule of events for the exact dates and times)  
**Concours:** You will have to decide if you want to be in the **Original, Restored or Modified** classes. See the Concours Judging Standards tab on [www.gtoaa.org](http://www.gtoaa.org) for more info.  
**Popular Vote:** you will have to decide if you want your car in the **Popular Vote Class** where participants will vote for your car, the **Street Legends Class** where your car will be on display but not voted on or the **Original Owners Class** where your car has already been awarded an Original Owners Award or you are to receive your award at this Convention. For more info on Original Owners contact Tom Oxler @ [president@gtoaa.org](mailto:president@gtoaa.org). If you are in the Popular Vote class, you will also need to determine if your car is **Stock or Modified**. For Stock/Mod descriptions, see the Popular Vote Info tab on

[www.gtoaa.org](http://www.gtoaa.org). The GTOAA PV Staff will create the Voting Classes (usually 22 – 28) depending upon the number of GTOs, A Bodies and Pontiacs registered.

- 3) If you are bringing a car, you will need the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) for registration. GTOAA verifies each and every car registered for authenticity.
- 4) If you are bringing a trailer to haul your car, you will need the license plate number of the trailer and will have to pay the trailer fee so there will be a spot for you to store your trailer while at the Convention.
- 5) Research available activities, dates and time you will want to attend. These can be found at [www.gtoaa.org](http://www.gtoaa.org) and clicking the 20XX Convention tab and then clicking the Convention Information or Fee Schedule tabs. Please note that all awards from our Concours and Popular Vote Shows are given out at the Awards Banquet usually held on Saturday evening. Check the Schedule of Events for the exact date and time.
- 6) Names of those attending. This is needed so everyone in your party has the necessary Identification Badges needed to enter the shows, seminars and activities.

With all of this information, you are now ready to register. With either online or paper registrations, you will receive a confirmation email if you have supplied an email with your registration. If you register online, in your confirmation email, there will be a secure link that allows you to change or modify your registration so save this email and link.

**ARRIVAL AT CONVENTION:** Upon arrival, park in the hotel parking lot and check in at the Hotel. Even if you have a trailer, there is usually plenty of space to temporarily park in the back of the hotel or some Conventions have designated “Temporary Trailer Parking” areas. After unloading your luggage and checking out your room, proceed to the Convention Registration desk. Here you will pick up your Registration Packet that contains your name badges, activity tickets, and trailer parking info, maps and other info. The Registration Desk will direct you where to unload your car from the trailer and then where to proceed to the Tech Check-In Tent.

**EVERYONE MUST TECH:** Every Car registered must go through "Tech." At the Tech Check-In Tent, Concours cars will be verified that they are in the correct class (Original, Restored or Modified) and that the electrical items are working such as turn signals, brake lights, radio, etc. Popular Vote cars will be verified that they truly are either Stock or Modified. Once Tech'd, you will receive your Dash Card which will have your name, Registration number, the show (Concours or Popular Vote) and you're Class (Popular Vote, Display Only or Original Owner). If you are in the Popular Vote Class, you will also get another Voting Class letter based upon your specific car. GTOAA divides the entire Popular Vote Class by year, style and stock/modified so there are an even distribution of cars in each class. You will also receive your designated parking space in the Popular Vote show field. If you plan on being in Concours, you should arrive no later than Wednesday to get through Tech before the Concours Show on Thursday. If you are in Popular Vote, you should arrive no later than Thursday to get through Tech before the Popular Vote Show on Friday. Tech is usually open beginning on Wednesday through Friday morning. Again, check the Schedule of Events for exact details.

**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Every car must get photographed prior to entering their designated parking space either in Concours or in Popular Vote. The Photographer Tent is usually located very close to the Tech Check-In Tent. The photos are used to show your car when you win an award at the Awards Ceremony and will be used to show your car in the Awards Edition of The Legend usually in September following the Convention. The photography vendor will usually have a booth where you can purchase various pictures of your car.

**SHOW FIELD PARKING:** The dash card given to you at the Tech Check-In tent must be posted where it can be seen by the Parking Attendants and if in Popular Vote by the attendees voting for their favorite cars during the Popular Vote Show on Friday. In and out privileges are usually available for Popular Vote and sometimes for Concours depending upon the facilities and layout of the Hotel or Convention Center. Many venues for Concours require all cars to be in the facility on Wednesday and they cannot be removed until late Saturday evening or Sunday. Again, check the Schedule of Events for more details.

**All Owners** must attend the Concours Owners Meeting usually on Wednesday and **all** Concours cars must be in the Concours Show field by Thursday morning or as specified in the Schedule of Activities. Concours Judging begins early Thursday morning and may run well into the late evening depending on the numbers of Concours cars attending. The owners should remain with their cars to assist the Judges in open doors, etc. and to answer any questions they may have. The Judging Sheets will be available to each Concours participant at the end of the Awards Ceremony. These sheets will show you where there are deficiencies in your car.

All Popular Vote Show cars should be in their designated parking spaces as much as possible but especially on Friday during the Popular Vote Show. Every registration will receive a Popular Vote Ballot and each registrant is required to vote for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> for at least 50% of the classes in order to have their ballot counted. Keeping your car on the Popular Vote show field as much as possible assures that the majority of Registrants have had an opportunity to see and vote for your car.

**ACTIVITIES & SEMINARS:** The annual GTOAA National Convention is more than just a Car Show. It is our annual get together where our members can learn new things about the GTO hobby and to enjoy each other's company.

During the Convention, there will be many Seminars put on by some of our Pontiac Dignitaries or by some very qualified technical experts on Pontiac performance parts and restorations. The Tech Seminars are very valuable to our members and are always well attended.

Since our annual GTOAA National Convention is usually 5 days long and is held in various locations throughout the country, this gives our GTOAA member families an opportunity to partake in some sight-seeing activities that they may never have had the opportunity to do without attending the GTOAA Convention. Most activities include the tickets and transportation to and from the activity. Many activities are also self-guided or include driving your car. There is usually plenty of time to schedule all of the activities that will give your family a taste of the history and flavor of the location.

Check the Schedule of Events for exact dates and time and check the Convention Information at [www.gtoaa.org](http://www.gtoaa.org) for a detailed description of each seminar or activity.

**AWARDS CEREMONY & BANQUET:** The Awards Ceremony is held usually with a Banquet meal on Saturday evening. Check the Schedule of Events for exact dates and times. Here, all of the GTOAA awards will be presented including Concours Gold, Silver and Bronze awards and Popular Vote first, Second, third and Honorable Mention Awards. There will also be presentations for the Best of Show in Concours and in Popular Vote for 64-74 and 04 – 06. If you cannot attend the Awards Ceremony, you should try to have a friend or relative accept any award you may receive. This helps the Host Chapter in shipping costs for awards not picked up. Also at the Awards Ceremony, the Host Chapter for the next GTOAA National Convention will make their presentation hoping to get you to attend their Convention next year.

**QUESTIONS????** If you still have questions please do not hesitate to call one of our GTOAA Staff members:

Convention Coordinator: Steve Hedrick 314-640-4020  
[convention@gtoaa.org](mailto:convention@gtoaa.org)

Registration Coordinator: Beth Butcher 970-493-3932  
[membership@gtoaa.org](mailto:membership@gtoaa.org)

Concours Chairman: Jon Wacholtz 507-433-5201  
[jwconcours@msn.com](mailto:jwconcours@msn.com)

Popular Vote Coordinator Tom Szymczyk 856-439-0314  
[goatguytom@aol.com](mailto:goatguytom@aol.com)