



# Pontiacs of the Valley

April 2026 | Newsletter of the Valley of the Sun Pontiacs Club  
Chapter #107, Pontiac Oakland Club International  
Next club meeting is April 15 at Rudy's Country Store/BBQ

## Nominations for Club Board, Officers open at April meeting

### Great turnout on a hot day at BOPC '26

*New online system worked smoothly for registration, judging*

Valley of the Sun Pontiacs chapter members turned out in force on March 22 – with their cars and with their volunteerism, making the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Buick-Olds-Pontiac-Cadillac+GMC show one of our biggest ever.

The show, held at the East Valley Institute Technology in Mesa, had 239 registrants,



of



including 150 Pontiacs. The club saw a record number of GMC entries this year, and close to \$5,000 in raffle prizes were handed out. The club also added 14 new members who joined at the show.

**(top, right) BOPC Judging co-coordinator Peter Senese helps some of the club's 27 volunteer judges on using CarShowPro software; (above, left) owners of Pontiac Sostices, Fieros vied for trophies in their classes. (left) Mary Sundberg and Dodi Messer directed registration.**



This year, car show volunteers tested and incorporated a new Web-based registration and vehicle judging system. Entries pre-registered online at the CarShowPro



website, and a separate website was available to order t-shirts and raffle tickets. The system helped to reduce the day-of-show registrations by over 50%.

“I am so very proud and thankful for everyone who went the extra mile to help make this show a success,” club president Paul Albinger said (see his President’s Message below).

One of the special awards handed out was to club members **Joel and Mona Hernandez** and their 1951 Pontiac Chieftan Deluxe in honor of club member Nate Hoey, who passed away earlier this year.

REGISTRATION QUANTITY BY MAKE			
Make	Pre-Reg	DOS	Tot
Pont	137	13	150
Buick	22	3	25
Olds	19	8	27
Caddy	21	5	26
GMC	9	2	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>239</b>

“The Valley of the Sun Pontiacs club so graciously provided a trophy at the BOPC Car show in memory

of my husband, Nate Hoey,” wrote Becky Hoey in a note to the club. “For those of you that remember Nate, you know he loved classic cars. He owned cars from every



decade from the 1940s to the 2010s.”

Becky was asked to choose her favorite Pontiac.



“I really wanted it to be a car that he would choose,” Becky wrote. “So, I did what all wives would do - I channeled him and used his voice to tell me which car out of all the beautiful entries at the show he would choose.

“I kept hearing him say, as he did each time he saw it, ‘I love that car.’

Thank you Joel and Mona Hernandez (*above right, with Becky*) for your 1951 Pontiac Chieftan and the enjoyment it gave Nate.”

Check out more photos and videos from the event on our club Facebook page and in the gallery of our website, [www.valleysunpontiacs.com](http://www.valleysunpontiacs.com)

## Did you miss out on buying a BOPC show T-shirt?

We still have some left for \$10 each from our 2026 show and one from 2025! Pick them up at our April 15 club meeting.

Quantity	Year	Size	Price ea.
1	2025	2x1	\$5
1	2026	S	\$10
5		M	\$10
7		L	\$10
11		2x1	\$10

# President's Message

## It takes a village ...



To have our Pontiac club be successful, it takes many people. Your officers and Board of Directors provide the leadership and a focus on making things happen - our "TEAM" needs to be involved.

We just completed our Buick-Olds-Pontiac-Cadillac+ GMC Car Show and Swap, one that introduced modern technology into the heart of the operation. I am going to show you the "VILLAGE" it took to make it happen and acknowledge all club members who helped.

Before that, A GREAT BIG SHOUT OUT goes to Carl Bylander as the BOPC+GMC Car Show chairman, along with help from Board members Tom Knecht, Vinnie La Macchia, Mark Neumann, Mike Fleury, Mary Sundberg, & Owen Zangle. They and other volunteers put forth a Herculean effort to coordinate the CarShowPro online registration and judging system into our show. A big Thank You to everyone.

The Village included:

**BOPC chairman:** Carl Bylander

**CarShowPro integration:** Tom Knecht & Vinnie LaMacchia, assisted by Mike Fleury, Mark Neumann, Mary Sundberg, Owen Zangle

**Finance and Credit Card Services:** Mike Fleury

**EVIT Coordination:** Carl Bylander

**Marketing Rep/T-Shirt art design and dash plaques:** Bruce Almond

**Pre- and Day-of-Show Show Registration:** Tom Knecht, Mary Sundberg, Dodi Messer, Owen Zangle, Sunny Carnivale, Walter Beurkle, Laura Mille, Alan Zangle, Tiffany Leighton

**Logistics:** Carl Bylander, Alan Zangle, Dave Koenig, Frank Gostyla

**Parking:** Tim Blattner, assisted by Ron Pearson, Phil Collins, Julian Grant, Mike Naegli, Eric Hankins

**Judging:** Mark Neumann & Peter Senese, assisted by Jim Baran, Jeff Baethke, Sean Fowler, Joe Peskunowicz, Mike Grimm, Dan Huskisson, Paul Wasko, Keith Taylor, Joe Seeyle, Steve Lemans, Harry Johnson, Calvin Johnson, Dave Koenig, Pat LaClair, Tom Locke, Mike Lambert, Scott Moore, Larry McCown, Marc Shutro, Bob Rukavina, David Wallak, Paul Waer, Bill McCoy, Frank Gostyla, Jim Purgatorio, Don Webb

**Raffle/50-50 Coordinator:** Thom & Ellie Mohr, assisted by Georjann & Danny Stull and Valerie Johnson

**Food Vendor Coordinator:** Dave Koenig

**Swap Meet Coordinator:** Dan LaChimia

**VSP Membership Signup:** Murray Nevin

**Photography:** Carol Hagood, Marc Shutro

**Winners Row Coordinator:** Paul Albinger

I am so very proud and thankful for everyone who went the extra mile to help make this show a success. I wish to thank any non-members and members who I didn't mention. We look forward to planning for our 2027 event, and ask more members to get involved in assisting with the show – and club activities in the future – to make our club the best it can be!!!

*Paul*

Paul Albinger, Jr.





celebrating **45** years!  
OF POCI CLUB ACTIVITY IN ARIZONA



CASA GRANDE

# Statewide Picnic

ROCKIN' **PHOENIX** and **TUCSON** TOGETHER AGAIN!

## Sunday, April 19, 2026

Dave White Regional Park, Casa Grande, AZ 85122  
2121 N. Thornton Road • Ramada "D" • Arrive at 12 Noon

### CATERED PICNIC LUNCH

BBQ Pulled Pork, buns/combread, mac & cheese, baked beans, pickles, chips, Ghirardelli chocolate brownies.

**COST: \$10 per person**

We're requesting a \$10/person donation from all chapter members and their families, TO BE COLLECTED AT EVENT.

### YOU MUST RSVP!

The caterer must know in advance how much food to prepare. Let us know how many are in your party:

**RESERVE YOUR MEAL(S):** Contact member **Valerie Johnson** at (208) 604-4303 or email: [vallyne1959@gmail.com](mailto:vallyne1959@gmail.com)

**DEADLINE: TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026.**

\*NOTE: If you do not wish to partake of this catered meal, you may instead bring your own picnic food items AND you do not need to RSVP. Simply join us in Casa Grande at Noon!

### ENJOY ROOT BEER FLOATS!

Following lunch, participants will be treated to old-fashioned Root Beer floats ... and perhaps a few other fun surprises, too!

### WHAT TO BRING:

Please bring your own choice of beverage to enjoy during lunch.

NOTE: If you do not wish to reserve any \$10 meals from our designated local caterer, you may instead bring your own picnic food items. Due to numerous factors, we discourage the use of the barbecue grills during our anniversary gathering.

You may also bring your own folding chairs, tables and canopies, but they are not at all necessary.

**PAYMENT: PLEASE BRING CASH TO PAY FOR YOUR MEALS ONSITE.** These funds will reimburse both club treasuries.

**QUESTIONS?** If you have questions, and/or to make your reservations, contact:

Valerie Johnson at (208) 604-4303 • [vallyne1959@gmail.com](mailto:vallyne1959@gmail.com)

**TWO CARAVANS:** From Chandler: Meet @ Wild Horse Pass Casino (West of I-10 & Sundust Rd) at 11:00am; Depart 15 mins later.  
From NW Tucson: Meet @ QuikTrip Gas, 6455 W. Twin Peaks Rd (East of I-10) at 11:00am; Depart 15 mins later.

# Welcome new members to our Pontiac club!

Brad Benson   Levi Boucher   Emanuel Furconi   Douglas Hanson  
Randy Klinckhardt   Jay McClatchey   Ian Parr   Doug Payne  
Chris Randall   Fred Reese   Anthony Spinazzola  
Don Weston   Mark Delano

## New Member Spotlight

### 1960 Pontiac Catalina 4-Door Hardtop - *Douglas Hanson*

I spotted this car in 2025 at the weekly Friday afternoon car display on E. Apache Trail and N. Signal Butte Rd. in Mesa. I had never owned a Pontiac before, but I liked the beautiful blue color, the lo-o-o-n-g shape of the 4-door hardtop, and the special wraparound windshields. It was not well optioned. It had no air conditioning, no power windows, and a broken radio. However, it was priced right so I bought it! That's when my joy of owning a Pontiac began!!



### 1969 Pontiac Catalina convertible - *LeVi Boucher*

My father purchased this car brand new in Minot, North Dakota, and this Catalina has remained within the same family household ever since - passed down from father to son, and now to the careful hands of his daughter.

The vehicle remained original throughout my father's ownership, preserving the character, presence, and craftsmanship of Pontiac's full-size lineup at the height of the era. Each spring and fall, Dad brought the Catalina out of storage along with the Turtle Wax, working side-by-side to meticulously wash and wax it.

The Catalina, more than just a vehicle, has become a cherished symbol—embodying the traditions, stories, and pride that connect a father to his children. As the seasons change, so do the memories, each one adding another layer to the legacy that continues to grow with every mile.

After my father's passing, a fuel-injection system was installed. When the car came into my ownership, I learned the original factory components had been removed; I immediately returned to the shop to recover them, ensuring they remained with the car. This car has not been restored but preserved and protected - maintaining its authenticity and legacy. It remains a living piece of family history and American automotive design.

### 1967 Pontiac GTO - *Anthony Spinazzola*

This is one of my '67 GTOs. It is an automatic, I bought it a couple of years ago in California. it was a two-owner car. Restoration had been started with a rebuilt engine, paint, and a sandblasted and powder-coated frame. It needed wiring, and we finished the interior and added A/C.

I live in Mesa and look forward to meeting everyone soon.





Paul Albinger, Valley of the Sun Pontiacs • (480) 284-3607 • pajeb@aol.com

The Valley of The Sun Pontiacs Chapter is planning two cruises for 2026 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Route 66. The first event will be held in May, and the second will be held in October (see note at bottom). The two cruises will be similar but not identical. Both cruises will be "modular," meaning that you can attend as many or as few of the planned daily segments as you desire; you are free to tag along on whichever days you prefer.

If your Pontiac is not up to running the extended miles, you may take your daily driver. I always say, "we come for the cars, and go for the people." Let's celebrate Route 66!

#### CRUISE #1, MAY 6-10, 2026

If you are interested in participating, please contact Paul Albinger at (480) 284-3607 or pajeb@aol.com. We can discuss whatever you would like and will later forward a detailed itinerary of the event.

We were not able to secure any discounted hotel rates without a financial guarantee up front. We will make some recommendations on lodging, but you may select any other venues. We will also decide on restaurants on a daily basis as well as any other options such as evening cruises and other interesting venues with our group that may come up. We are looking to having a great time!

Below are tentative plans for the May 6-10 cruise.

##### DAY 1 • WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

Depart from the Phoenix area at 9am. Caravan to Gallup, NM. Arrive mid-afternoon and take in the Route 66 highlights of Gallup. There are numerous restaurants to consider for dinner. Afterwards, we will have a pow wow around the cars and/or inside a hotel lobby to discuss our trip and whatever else we want. Time will be allotted at each stop for shopping, browsing, food, fuel, etc.

##### DAY 2 • THURSDAY, MAY 7

WE WILL FOLLOW THE ORIGINAL ROUTE 66. Meet at 8am and travel to Williams, AZ. We will make stops at Petrified Forest, Holbrook, Winslow, (possibly Flagstaff) and then Williams by 4pm. Browse, shop, dinner, hotel in Williams

##### DAY 3 • FRIDAY, MAY 8

9am departure from Williams with stops in Ashfork, Seligman, and end up in Kingman early-mid afternoon and spend the night

##### DAY 4 • SATURDAY, MAY 9

Spend the morning in Kingman, with a 11am departure for Oatman, AZ. GREAT DRIVE, and see the wild burros!

Lunch and afterwards return to Kingman. If you want, it is a 30-minute drive to the California State Line to complete ROUTE 66 in Arizona. You can also return to Kingman for the evening.

##### DAY 5 • SUNDAY, MAY 10

Kingman morning departure time TBD

#### CRUISE #2, MID-OCTOBER 2026

A second Route 66 Centennial Cruise, to take place in October, is being championed by member Valerie Johnson. It will be highlighted by the I LOVE ROUTE 66 Fest in Kingman on Oct 16-17 which includes a large two-day car show (Friday, Oct 16, vehicles 1966 and newer will be featured; Saturday, Oct 17, vehicles 1965 and older will be featured). More detailed information has yet to be released, but rest assured Valerie will be on top of it. A big Thank You goes out to her for planning this; watch for more details.



### Join us for our next club meeting!!

The meeting is being held Wednesday, March 15 at Rudy's Country Store and BBQ, starting with dinner at 5:30 pm, and the meeting at 7 pm. Address is 15257 N. Northsight Blvd., Scottsdale.



# Cars and parts for sale

>1969 Bonneville Coupe. 70,000 miles. Asking \$34,500. Contact: John Pinto at [jpintoii@hotmail.com](mailto:jpintoii@hotmail.com)



>1972 Pontiac Grand Prix custom convertible. Asking \$75,000. Contact: Gary Derner at [geesderner@yahoo.com](mailto:geesderner@yahoo.com)



< 1951 Pontiac Chieftan Deluxe. Asking \$60,000. Contact: Joel Hernandez at [xmarinero01@yahoo.com](mailto:xmarinero01@yahoo.com)

> 1965 Pontiac GTO. Asking \$75,000. Contact: Denny Deal at [Dennyd46@cox.net](mailto:Dennyd46@cox.net).



< 1973 Pontiac Trans Am. Asking \$100,000. Contact: Gary Rude at [garyrude@gooseneckimp.com](mailto:garyrude@gooseneckimp.com).

>Original gas tank from 1972 Pontiac GTO, comes with straps. Asking \$100. Radiator from same car. Asking \$125. Both in good condition. Contact: Robert Mock at [nashmetro57@aol.com](mailto:nashmetro57@aol.com)



## Downsizing! The GOATS have got to GO!



**67 GTO** White with red interior, 428 cu. in., tri-power, auto, a/c, his/hers shifter, p. steering, disk brakes, dual stainless-steel exhaust. Rally wheels. \$47,000.

**'05 GTO** Chile pepper red with red interior. Only 16,510 miles and like new. LS2, auto, Runs great and extra clean. \$35,000.

**'05 GTO** Blue with black interior. 63,190 miles, LS2, manual 6 speed. Runs good & everything works great. Extra clean. New tires, extra set of chrome wheels. \$28,000.

Come take a look! Call Henry Dodge at 480.529.4201 for more information. Cars are in Apache Junction.

# WIDE- TRACK SMILES



**Jay Leno**  
aka The Comedian

**WE'RE HAVING** something of a Pontiac moment at the garage. It all started when I bought a '68 Firebird Sprint a few years ago with the six-cylinder overhead-cam motor. I like unicorns and that one definitely fit the mold. It was the mid-'60s, when John DeLorean was the head guy at Pontiac and he could do no wrong. Chevrolet made some great cars, but besides the Corvette, Pontiac was really GM's performance division. I've always thought the Firebirds handled slightly better than the Camaros, and you had the GTOs of course.

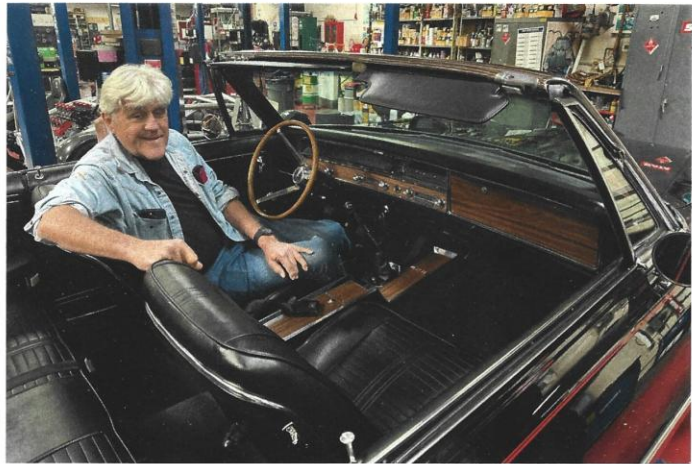
Anyway, we did a blog on the Firebird, and a guy called and asked if I wanted to sell the 14-inch wheels because we were putting 15s on. I said sure, and we got to talking. He had a '65 Grand Prix hardtop sport coupe with a later 400 and an automatic. He's a Navy veteran and the nicest guy, so I just sent him the wheels. Well, '65 was the oddest year, the bolt pattern doesn't match anything else and the wheels didn't fit. We talked some more, and as he was in his 80s and working on the car was getting to be too much, I ended up taking over the project.

Sure enough, I had no better luck finding wheels for it, so we decided to take everything back to stock with the original wheels and paint color. Like a lot of projects, there was much more to do on it than I think he even realized, but that's OK. The car is gorgeous, with that fast roof, mile-long quarter-panel, wheel slats, and unique "air slot" grille. The previous owner is 88 now, and

we're going to have him out soon to drive it.

Then last year, I was at the auctions at the Audrain car week in Newport, Rhode Island. Like most people, I never follow my own advice, which is: Don't buy a car sight unseen. Well, I saw another unicorn in the auction catalog, and I had to have it. It was a 1967 Pontiac 2+2 High Output convertible, which was a performance version of the big Catalina that they made for only two years. They wanted to give it an engine that was different from the GTO, so they bumped the V-8 up to 428 cubic inches from 421. At 376 horsepower, it was the most powerful engine at Pontiac at the time, and you could get it with a four-speed, which this car had. It was such an odd, rare car, because, again, there weren't that many guys back then who wanted something as big as a Cadillac but with a manual, a tach on the hood, and a stiffer ride. They used to call them "banker's hot rods," because it was for a businessman or a salesman who needed the big trunk to put his wares in and who wanted the GTO but was in a higher financial status. So it's just a very funny car and they only made a couple hundred of them.

I believe that the last days of an old technology are way better than the first days of a new technology, and to some extent, this was the best, most comfortable body-on-chassis car they could build until everyone went to unibody. It's so nice to drive, and there's so much chrome and brightwork inside that you just feel happy driving it. There's no big A-pillar or airbags, nothing—it's like driving



A couple of big '60s Pontiacs have taken over the garage. Except for a transmission swap to a Tremec TKX six-speed, Leno's '67 2+2 is all stock down to the hood tach.

the outdoors. And it's so wide that you can't even punch your passengers if you get into a fight, they're too far away to reach.

Of course, the first time I drove it, the gauges and lights didn't work, so we opened up the dash and all the wires had been cut and zip-tied off. That's OK, every time I buy a car now I just assume I'll have to restore it, and I still would have bought this car because the chrome and the paint were so good. Four-speeds from that period weren't much fun to shift—you were really rowing them. Plus, the engine screams at freeway speeds. Luckily there's a company called American Powertrain that makes an adapter kit for a modern Tremec TKX six-speed that literally bolts in, you don't even have to take the engine out. We put it in in two days, and now instead of turning 4000 rpm at 70, the engine is turning 1500.

My dad wouldn't have understood it. He would have said, "Why the hell do you want to shift it? They make automatics now that shift for you!" That's why they didn't sell many cars like it. But it's really a fun car from the golden age of Pontiac, and it reminds me of my youth. I call it Jackie Gleason because it's a big, heavy car that can dance, and like the '65 Grand Prix, it makes me laugh. #

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**JAY LENO** hosted *The Tonight Show* from 1992 to 2014 and remains on the comic circuit. He shares his personal car collection with enthusiasts on his TV show, *Jay Leno's Garage*.

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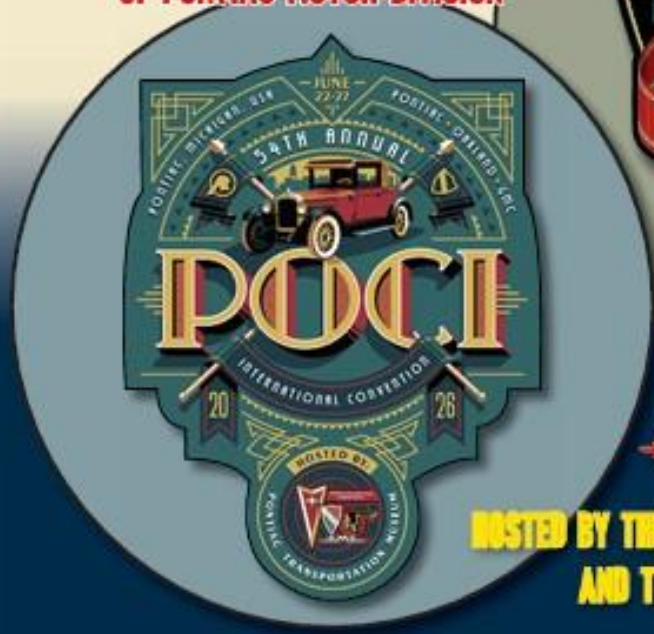
# 54th Annual **POCI** International Convention

**PONTIAC, MICHIGAN**  
**JUNE 22-27, 2026**  
"Home for the Hundredth"  
CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF PONTIAC-MOTOR-DIVISION



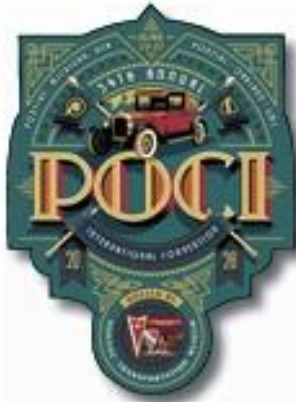
CONVENTION UPDATES AT [WWW.POCI.ORG](http://WWW.POCI.ORG)  
FOR MORE INFO CALL THE CLUB OFFICE 763-479-2111  
— REGISTRATION FORM ON REVERSE —

- TOURS
- SEMINARS
- SWAP MEET
- 100TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE
- POINTS-JUDGED SHOW
- POPULAR VOTE SHOW
- GUEST SPEAKERS
- CAR RAFFLE GIVING IT AWAY AT THE CONVENTION (YEA IT'S A PONTIAC!)
- AND MUCH MORE



**HOSTED BY THE PONTIAC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM  
AND THE MICHIGAN POCI CHAPTERS**

# 2026 POCI CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM



## 54th Annual Pontiac Oakland Club International Convention June 22-27, 2026

**Host Hotel: Marriott Centerpoint  
(Auburn Hills Marriott)  
3600 Centerpoint Parkway  
Pontiac, Michigan 48341  
(248) 253-9800**

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL MEMBERS, EVEN IF NOT ENTERING A VEHICLE.

**MEMBER REGISTRATION FEE: \$65.00 ~ AFTER MAY 15, 2026: \$85.00  
(REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES MEMBER, SPOUSE AND CHILDREN)**



MAIL THIS FORM TO:

POCI 2026 CONVENTION  
PO Box 421  
LONG LAKE, MN 55356

CONVENTION UPDATES ARE POSTED AT [WWW.POCI.ORG](http://WWW.POCI.ORG)  
FOR CONVENTION QUESTIONS, CALL THE POCI CLUB OFFICE (763) 479-2111

Convention Coordinators: Art Barrett (417) 737-1469 [artbarrett@centurytel.net](mailto:artbarrett@centurytel.net)  
Larry Crider (918) 798-2765 [pontiacfun@gmail.com](mailto:pontiacfun@gmail.com)  
Host Chapter Contact: Tim Dye (815) 510-8950 Penny Dye (815) 822-5259

THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE.

PAY BY CREDIT CARD, CHECK OR MONEY ORDER MADE PAYABLE TO:  
"2026 POCI CONVENTION". YOU MAY REGISTER ON LINE AT: [WWW.POCI.ORG](http://WWW.POCI.ORG)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ POCI # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL # \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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(VISA, MC OR DISCOVER) EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ SECURITY CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PONTIACS OF IDAHO PRESENTS

*The* **ALL GM**  
*Car Show*



**SATURDAY MAY 30, 2026 @ 9:00-2:00**

**SUMMIT CHURCH 10375 W OVERLAND RD BOISE, ID**



PROCEEDS BENEFIT PAYETTE RIVER REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL



REGISTER HERE



**\$25 PREREGISTRATION FEE**  
**TILL APRIL 30TH**  
**INCLUDES EVENT T-SHIRT**

**\$20 REGISTRATION AT EVENT**  
**EVENT T-SHIRT NOT INCLUDED**  
**\*AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE\***

**PONTIAC • GMC • CHEVY • OLDSMOBILE • BUICK • CADILLAC**



## Officers and Board of Directors, 2025-26

President: Paul Albinger

Vice-President: Mark Neumann

Secretary: Owen Zangle and Robbie LaMacchia

Treasurer: Mike Fleury

Board of Directors: Bruce Almond, Frank Gostyla, Valerie Johnson, Tom Knecht, Dave Koenig, Tom Locke, Larry McCown, Tom Mohr, Mary Sundberg

Webmaster: Scott Svenheim

[www.valleysunpontiacs.com](http://www.valleysunpontiacs.com)

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