

Convention Corner 2019

June 25-29 Lawrenceburg, Indiana

Don Kruse, Treasurer, OVGTOA

It is with great pride that the Ohio Valley GTO Association invites you to attend the 2019 GTOAA Convention in the Greater Cincinnati area. Once again, our national convention will take place in the Midwest, in an area less than a day's drive of 80% of the population east of the Mississippi!

Our club has helped organize and co-hosted two other national conventions. We are excited about the opportunity to host next year's event. 2019 is a milestone year in many ways. Our club will celebrate its 30th anniversary, along with the 50th anniversary of the 1969 GTO Judge. 2019 will also mark the first year for the 2004 Next Gen GTO cars in the Concours Original, Modified, and Restored classes, same as the 1964-74 GTOs.

Our convention chairperson, Mr. Linville "Bud" Krebs is a seasoned convention veteran who has forgotten more about GTOs and putting on a convention than most of us will ever know. Bud and our club president, John Becker, have a convention team in place that meets monthly to assure no detail is overlooked to ensure those who attend the convention will leave with no expectation unfilled.

Our convention search took us to venues in and around Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, and Southern Indiana. Our search committee landed a venue in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, a



small town just minutes from downtown Cincinnati and the Greater Cincinnati International Airport. Lawrenceburg is conveniently located less than five minutes from Interstate 275, a circle freeway around Cincinnati that makes its way through Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. The freeway allows access to attractions without the traffic hassles that tend to plague large cities.

The city of Lawrenceburg was founded in 1802 and is located in

southeastern Indiana on the banks of the Ohio River. The city is also the seat of Dearborn County, and is home to over 5,000 people and about five square miles in size. While small in population and size, it offers a charming downtown but one alive with restaurants (local and chains), small shops, a first rate Event Center, and is home to the Hollywood Casino and Hotel.

Lawrenceburg is located close enough for convention attendees and their families to enjoy all of the attractions the city has to offer along with those of its neighbors, Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. Most fortunately for us, its City Council has worked well with us and promises to do whatever we need them to do in the future. They are as invested in the success of this convention as we are!

Now, a word or two about the venue: The Event Center is a newly constructed building that adjoins one of our host hotels, The Doubletree Inn by Hilton. The other host hotel is within walking distance and is located at the Hollywood Casino.

The Event Center is quite modern and contains three ballrooms, six flexible suites, along with a large 25,000 sq. ft. indoor multi-purpose exhibition venue. Vehicle trailer parking will be available in a secure lot a minute or two from the Event Center.

The indoor convention floor (reserved for Concours entries) is surrounded on three sides by wide hallways on two floors affording vendors generous space for booths and displays that will be convenient for all of the attendees. Numerous modern and well-lit restrooms are adjacent to the convention floor as well as the common areas. The Walnut Lounge located on the first floor is a convenient place to stop and get a cup of coffee, relax and catch up with friends old and new.

The Doubletree Inn is the newest Hilton property in the area. It offers spacious rooms, scenic views of the Ohio River, The Levee Bar and Grill, a full serve restaurant, within walking distance to the Hollywood Casino and offers a no-charge weekend shuttle. Rates are quite affordable. Since it is adjacent to the Event Center it is by far the most convenient place to stay.

The Hollywood Casino Hotel is adjacent to the Hollywood Casino and is a short walk from the Event Center. Rates at this hotel are also quite rea-



sonable. The Casino offers fine dining, casual fare, and of course all of the attractions one would associate with a top-notch gaming establishment. While your GTO may be “rolling on the river” during the day, you may elect to enjoy a “Hollywood night” or two at the casino during your stay.

Other local hotels include a Baymont by Wyndham, a Comfort Inn, and a Holiday Inn Express. They are located within 5-10 minutes of the Event Center. Finding a room to fit your budget will be easy.

Perhaps of great interest to those who intend to enter their vehicle in the Popular Vote category is its location. In 2019, Popular Vote vehicles will be in an enclosed parking garage, directly across the street from the Event Center. The parking garage will have 24-hour security making it a safe and convenient place for your vehicle. You will have no worries about inclement weather, as its indoor location will keep your vehicle “high and dry.”

A future month’s Convention Corner article will focus on all of the area attractions. A sneak peek includes Kings Island, the Cincinnati Reds, the

Creation Museum, Freedom Center, Fountain Square, the Banks, Newport on the Levee, and the top ranked Cincinnati Zoo to name but a few. Stay tuned for more details!

A word of information about our website (www.ovgto.com). Our website is currently in the process of being updated and populated with information concerning the 2019 convention. Please bear with us through this process. I am certain that it will be finished in a timely manner. Feel free to Google the city of Lawrenceburg, Indiana, The Event Center of Lawrenceburg, and the Hollywood Casino for a great insight into the facilities surrounding the convention.

Suffice to say, by combining a new facility in a small town setting with all of the area’s major attractions just minutes away, we believe the 2019 GTOAA Nationals will be one of the best.

Mark your calendars to be in the Greater Cincinnati area next June 25-29, 2019.