

# Charity Disparity

*There Must Be More Than 3 Chapters Out There Doing Charitable Work*

Back in the December 2003 issue of this fine publication, on page 17, I asked chapters to tell us what sort of charitable donations they had made during last year. I know from my own chapter experience that local clubs raise money for various schools, hospitals, food drives, and even individual members who may need financial assistance during medical or family difficulties. So I was confident that I would be flooded with responses. Wrong.

Counting my own local chapter, I received a total of three replies. This is less than fabulous. Either one of two things explain this result. One is that maybe only three chapters did any charity work during 2003. I find this hard to believe, or at least I would hope not to have to believe it. For example, I know that the Southern California Gathering of Goats raised \$2,500 for Arnie Beswick at the Western Regional Meet, but only because I read about it here in [The Legend](#). The other possibility is that only three chapters bothered to respond because they didn't read the December issue of [The Legend](#). I certainly don't want to believe that either, but it seems more likely. See the sidebar at right.

When I asked the chapters to tell us about their charitable work, I promised to publish the results here in the magazine. So, despite the small number of replies, those I received are as follows:

## Northwest GTO Legends

NWGTOL sponsors the annual "Rainier Run" which is a 164-mile poker run/cruise around Mount Rainier in Washington. They raised \$415 for the Pediatric Interim Care Center in Kent, Washington, which cares for infants that are born addicted to drugs or alcohol. Another \$400 was donated by the club to the USMC Toys for Tots program. To quote club president Gary Major, "The Northwest GTO Legends members realize that we are lucky and privileged to be able to own and maintain our wonderful GTOs and we are proud to help others less fortunate." Well said, and well done.

## Hey, Is This On?

Stand up comics have always used that question when the crowd isn't responding. Another version you might have heard: "Is this an audience or an oil painting?" Well, that's what it felt like when I received almost no response to my request for information about charitable work done by our chapters back in December. What's up with that?

Two years ago we put a questionnaire in this magazine about including Tempest and Lemans cars at the Nationals to see if the membership thought it was a good idea. We only got about 150 responses from over 3,000 members. Underwhelming to say the least. So I guess I shouldn't be surprised that only two chapters e-mailed me with a reply about charitable fund raising this time around (I did the response for my local club for a total of three).

My conclusion is that either very few people read this publication or wish to have their good deeds represented here. Again, this is disappointing. Almost all of your annual dues money goes toward the production of this magazine, not to mention the time and effort of the nice people who work on it. [The Legend](#) is the main channel of communication between the national organization and the members. We can't call everyone individually or come to your house to find out what you think and do at the local level. We communicate through this magazine, which comes to your door each month via your hard-working US postal service delivery person.

So, did no other chapter besides the three mentioned here do charity work in 2003? Or did the rest simply not pay attention or care enough to let us know? Are they the same people who are not reading this article right now? Will the other 45 chapters call me tomorrow with an explanation? Operators are standing by.