

Bringing together mature gay and bisexual men for friendship, activities, support and personal growth

OUTS AND INS



ORGANIZATION NEWS AND MORE

MAY 2017

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NEW CHAPTER

Nanaimo Celebrates 11 Months as Prime Timers

By Rick Amelotte

Nanaimo Prime Timers of British Columbia, Canada celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a potluck dinner!

Our hosts Don and Wiley provided a very delicious Irish stew at their home on Turner.

Some of the other dishes provided were a very tasty avocado salad, potato salad, and some very good homemade bread. And for desert, we had a luscious fruit cake with lots of tasty nuts and a healthy, white frosting, and some Irish cookies. I'm enjoying a glass of wine right

See NANAIMO CELEBRATES on page 3



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we're looking for a few good men



By Michael Stone, President

As I traveled around visiting chapters, I was privileged to meet so many hard working, dedicated men. I'm sure for every one of them there's at least three others out there that I have not yet met. It is to all of you that I write this article.

On Monday morning, October 30th, the two-year term of all the directors of Prime Timers Worldwide will come to an end. On that morning, we will have our election for Board of Directors. Many current board members may choose to run for another term in the same position (if they've only held their post for one two-year term). Or they may wish to run for another board position. Technically, all positions are vacant at that time and open.

See A FEW GOOD MEN on page 3

Would you like to contribute to *Outs and Ins*? Anything that would be of interest and value to fellow members would be most helpful. Here are some ideas:

- Chapter activities
- Living life as a mature gay man
- Advice for other chapters
- Helping the community
- Medical or retirement advice
- Achievements and recognition
- Chapter newsletter articles
- How PTWW helps you as a gay man
- Personal thoughts
- Puzzles or jokes that others would enjoy
- How your chapter uses the Internet
- Biography of yourself or other board members
- Other gay organizations or conferences that benefit members
- Review of good books that you've read
- Poems that you have written

Please send an electronic version of your article to webmaster@primetimersww.com. Thanks for your consideration! Help make an impact and be a voice of encouragement and advice to help us all grow as Prime Timers.

Far Away Places

By Jack Nimmo, Chairman of the Independent Chapter



Many of us can remember the days when you were growing up in small town where everyone knew your business *or tried to know it*. You were left isolated with thoughts of your attraction to that handsome football player on the high school team. Watching the couple dance at the prom brought a strange realization that you were watching him and not her. Why am I so different than all the other boys in school? It was nothing you would dare ask your buddy or parents about. You wondered, suppressed, married, fathered...you know the story.

Over the years, those small towns and tight-knit families where homosexuality was only an occasional mention in Sunday service or locker room joke have remained much the same. Television had the story of a riot in New York City at some queer bar named Stonewall but that was far away and didn't happen in Ansley, Nebraska. It only caught the ear of one who had thought of boys and not girls at a young age. "Maybe I'm not as alone as I thought I was," he would think.



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That was then and this is now. With the Internet, gay bars, social groups, and outed celebrities on cable networks, the world has awakened to a very large LGBTQ community and our contributions to family, community, workplace, and church in populations throughout the world. Men and women have stepped from the closet and walked the aisle to same-sex marriage in many countries and now in the U.S. Social acceptance of our community is commonplace in cities and large communities where gay bars, support groups, affirming churches, and even Prime Timers chapters enlighten society. But what about Ada, Oklahoma; Ansley, Nebraska; Staffordshire, England, or other smaller communities around the world?

Fortunately, those of our likeminded men who remained in those smaller communities to assist a parent, run a family business, or remain in the comfort of familiar surroundings have opportunities to escape the necessity of being "closeted" in their orientation though the Internet or by becoming a Prime Timer – *yes, a Prime Timer*. The Independent Chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide is designed to add men in places where a local chapter is not feasible. You learn of travel opportunities on cruises or to events like the upcoming Western Regional Gathering in Las Vegas in May and the 30th Anniversary Prime Timer Worldwide Convention being held in downtown Chicago in late October. What an opportunity to take a brief vacation from Small Town, Somewhere, to a place where you are surrounded by like minded men! Details are at www.primetimersww.com in the "Worldwide Convention" section.

Things and opportunities have changed from the days when I grew up in Ada. I'm glad that I migrated as a young man to larger cities where my orientation was a secret not spoken. It has been wonderful to watch society evolve in its thinking about my orientation so that I have become a respected neighbor, co-worker, church member, friend, and the list goes on. I'm also grateful that a man named Woody Baldwin had the foresight to establish a society for older gay men to find respect and social acceptance and opportunities for socialization in the gay community. Join Prime Timers Worldwide even if you are in a place far away by contacting me at independents@primetimersww.com or call 210-384-4562 in San Antonio.

Continued from the cover

we're looking for a few good men

continued from Michael Stone's cover page article

I've spoken with many of you over the years and you've expressed an interest in serving on our board. It's a wonderful honor and opportunity to give something back to the organization that we are all dedicated to. I know. I have served on the board since October 2003, first as Vice President of Chapters for four years (current title has been changed to Vice President) and as your President, for a total of six years. I believe that is a record. Concurrent with those positions, I continue as Director Emeritus (a position I hold and serve proudly). Come join me.

We are there to welcome you aboard, to support and work with you. Although I've heard from many of you expressing your interest, the process works like this:

In late June of this year, letters will go out to all chapters soliciting interested members to apply to our nominating committee. This committee will have been formed in early June and consists of one current Worldwide board member and two interested men from chapters. It will be the committee's duty to gather and compile the nominating letters. The positions will be President, Vice-President, Chairman of the Independent Chapter, Secretary, Treasurer, and four Directors-At-Large.

Requirements for a nominee are quite simple:

1. A letter expressing interest
2. A statement from the Chapter President or appointed board member stating that the nominee is a member in good standing (dues currently up-to-date)
3. A brief description of what you can bring to the position you are applying for

Once the committee has reviewed this information, they will announce the nominees. I suggest, at this early date, that you read our Constitution and By-Laws posted on our website (www.primetimersww.com) under the drop-down heading "About Us". This will furnish a job description. You won't be able to submit anything until the "vacancy notices" go-out in late June. A big "thank you" in advance and the best of luck to all of us!

now, so here's a toast to our hosts Don & Wiley...an old Irish toast.

"Here's to our husbands and boyfriends, may they never meet!"

There were 10 hot hunks (I mean, old farts) who sat around and solved most of the world's problems. Trump only came up a few times. Every time the name "Trump" came up, someone would say, "Let's not talk Trump!" We were a fun group with everyone getting their two-cents in here & there and a lot of good laughs.

Oh yes, we did talk about our variation of "The Trumpster", our very own Premier Christy Clark. Ours is bought and paid for!

Anyway, we did get beyond the politics and talked about how we can make NPT an inviting group of guys who will enjoy doing things together. Everyone participates!

We will have some speakers about various topics that concern our group. We are always open to learning new things. Also open to suggestions.

As chapter president, I invite everyone to visit beautiful Vancouver Island and if you are coming to Nanaimo, you will be most welcome at all our functions

I have read many of your newsletters. As a former printer, I'm impressed!

I am tutoring myself through our Facebook page, so please check it out, it's "Nanaimoprimitimers". Any-helpful advice would be welcome.

Discovering Late In Life That You Are Gay

By Stanley Ulbrych
Rhode Island Prime Timers

My name is Stanley Ulbrych, age 82, a member of Rhode Island Prime Timers. I also serve as the editor and photographer for the monthly newsletter. On several occasions, I have written short articles concerning what Prime Timers means to me. Most Rhode Island Prime Timers know me and a few know my story.

After being happily married for forty-plus years, my life and world suddenly changed. At age 78 my wife died and I found myself alone. After a period of mourning, I realized life has to go on. I was always curious about the gay life style but never did anything. After much thought and a great feeling of guilt, I decided to try it. I quickly



Prime Timers Worldwide Convention in Chicago

By David Lazear, Chicago Prime Timers

Chicago Prime Timers is honored to be hosting the Prime Timers Worldwide Convention on its 30-year anniversary! Come enjoy “The Windy City”, Prime Timers style! You’ll meet new friends, greet old friends from across the world, and maybe find your soul-mate here in “the town that Billy Sunday could not shut down.”

Our Convention Committee has put together four days of events and workshops which will make your time at the convention truly memorable.

Current registration is \$225/person (convention only) and \$325/person (convention and dinner cruise). Your registration includes a polo shirt with the convention logo, attendance for all special workshops which will be scheduled, a fabulous Halloween masquerade ball (with buffet), and a gala closing banquet.

Book your reservation today! Check the website for full details at:

www.ChicagoPrimeTimers.org/convention



Discovering Late In Life That You Are Gay

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discovered I liked it, but even so, I still felt guilty. But as the days and weeks went, by the guilt was always in my mind. How could something that felt so good be so bad? Finally, I talked it over with a couple of my gay friends. Both basically told me the same thing. Either stay home all day, staring at four walls feeling more and more in the wrong. Or...find some gay groups and join. Much easier said than actually doing it.

Finally, I went to Google (thank you, Google) and found the Rhode Island Prime Timers. I tell people that they did three things for me. One, they welcomed me with open arms. Two, they erased the feeling of guilt. Three, they helped me make many new friends. Now I walk down the street looking at all the beautiful older men in their tight jeans and gorgeous bulge. Some of the young ones aren't bad either.

I recently discovered a local nudist group. They function as a social group, very much as Prime Timers does, with one big exception. Prime Timers keep their clothes on; the nudist group takes them off as soon as you get inside the door.

As part of my “new life”, I decided to get a tattoo. In this case, a small one on my butt with the caption “bite me.” I want to get another, just haven't decided what I want. I have thought about having my nipples pierced, but frankly not sure that I want the pain involved. If I can work up the nerve, I may get my ears pierced.

As time goes on, I become more and more open about my current lifestyle. If people don't like me this way, too bad. At age 82, I don't have to answer to anyone. There is no doubt in anyone's mind I am out of the closet. I have read stories and have been told by friends what it was like for a gay man in the 50's, 60's, and 70's. For those that went through it and made it possible for gay men today to be more open and be married, I say, “Thank you.”

I lost one friend. He called me a “fag” and now doesn't talk to me. His loss, not mine. But I have made so many new, wonderful friends. Many of them are gay. One friend I have known for years came to me one evening. Over a few drinks, he confessed that he was gay but in the closet. I had always thought of him as straight. I now find myself in the role of “guide”, explaining to him there is nothing to feel guilty about.

I'm not sure exactly what I want to do in the future, but I do know I want to take a more active part in the local gay community. I'm not an outgoing person that can easily talk to strangers. Find me at a party and you may see me standing in a corner all by myself. But what I have realized is that once people get to know me, some will open up and confide in me.

I have been told numerous things both good and bad. Many seem to be in the same position I was when I realized I might be gay. They were full of guilt feelings that were very wrong. So afraid to come out of the closet, fearing what family and friends could say. With no one to talk to about what they are feeling, they talk to me. Most times I just listen and offer some comfort, telling them they are not alone. Perhaps this will be my way to help.

Possibly not the right way to say it, but I will offer a shoulder to cry on when needed and I always will continue to do so. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine my life would turn out the way it was.

Reflections On Our Organization

By Gary Copeland, Director-at-Large



These are some personal reflections I have had after serving 18 months or so on the Prime Times Worldwide Board of Directors. We meet via phone about every six weeks and yearly in-person at some location. The Board is a strong group of folks who serve as volunteers without pay and with no central headquarters or staff to support them. This is a challenge that stretches the capability of an organization that will soon have its 30th birthday. We have grown from its beginnings in Boston to a worldwide organization of over 8,000 members in almost 80 chapters. New chapters are welcomed warmly and are mentored by volunteers from the Board and from adjacent chapters.

However, after thirty years, the organization (at least in North America) has changed significantly. Our group of chapters are mostly independent of each other, yet their membership ranges from 15 to over 800. Finding men with a variety of responsibilities is a challenge. The size of the chapter (and location) can create stress on chapter leadership. This is evidenced by the unfortunate demise of chapters due to leadership burnout, among other causes. In the last few years, this has happened in small and large metropolitan communities. This problem has been particularly acute with non-North American chapters.

Our confederation of friends (PTWW) need some new ideas on how to organize its structure, its finances, and how it grows. There is great potential in enlarging the number of chapters and the number of Independent Members. However, without a central directing purpose and the infrastructure needed to support the current chapters as well as manage any expansion, it will be quite difficult to maintain a viable organization in our current state.

PTWW depends upon an assessment of \$2 per active member and a split in the income from the Worldwide Convention to provide the funds to operate our organization. With this money, we seek to publish interesting newsletters for the membership that ties us together. We provide pamphlets and information sheets to publicize our activities. We maintain a comprehensive website, provide individual websites to many chapters, and provide software that assists folks in running their own chapters. If there are any surplus funds, we can send a limited number of directors to regional events and/or to help start-ups. No director has any stipend. Travel expenses are usually borne by the traveler unless the Board votes unanimously to do otherwise.

Continuity in leadership is a problem since the Board is reconstituted every two years. It appears that in the past when we were a smaller organization, a few folks remained on each Board to pass-on procedures in an oral tradition. As PTWW grew, it developed bylaws and a procedures manual that helped ensure continuity in the way we do business. This evolution of the processes that we use continues. However, we need to keep in-mind the need for a full Board at all times and perhaps make sure that certain offices are filled with folks whose experiences qualify them for their jobs.

So what have I learned from these 18 months on the board? First, it is important to know some of the history of the board members. There must be complete transparency in all matters that the board deals with. There should be a means by which chapter leaders can share information among themselves. There should be written documents on how to perform certain functions for each major officer on the Board as well as for chapter officers. There should be a simple way for board members to communicate with their chapter liaisons. There should be a simple-to-use, central repository of chapter data that is easy to keep up-to-date. And the list goes on.

We must propose a plan for the 21st century. How can the ideals of our late founder, Woody Baldwin, continue to be expressed in this new age? How must we change to be a viable and strong backbone that will continuing to bring together mature gay and bisexual men for friendship, activities, support, and personal growth?

Phoenix Pride Parade

By Huck Fitterer
Prime Timers of Phoenix



Photo courtesy Huck Fitterer

The 2017 Phoenix Pride Festival was held on April 1st and 2nd, bringing together the diverse LGBTQ and allied communities for a weekend of celebration, camaraderie, and fun. It also raised funds for the Phoenix Pride Community Programs and educating the public about the existence and continuing civil rights battle facing the community.

Each year, the festival has a parade with over 2,000 individual participants with decorated vehicles, colorful floats, and walkers.

This year's parade theme was "Stand Up, Stand Proud" with Belinda Carlisle as the Celebrity Grand Marshal along with Community Grand Marshals, Stacy T. Louis and the Grand Canyon Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

Twenty-five members of the Prime Timers of Phoenix stood up and were proud as they walked, held banners and signs, rode in cars and in the back of a pickup, and passed out rainbow colored beads during the parade.



Photo courtesy Huck Fitterer

Travel Opportunities Promoted by PTWW



**PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE,
Michael & Robert, and Courtyard Travel present**

Prime Timers Family and Friends Winter Cruise on Celebrity's Silhouette

January 7-14, 2018

Top Chef Night Main Dining Room! Dine at one of the specialty restaurants: Qsine, Tuscan Grill, Sushi, Murano, Lawn Club Grille, Bistro on 5, Cafe al Bacio and The Porch. Also, the Main Dining Room, Oceanview Cafe, Pool Mast Grille, and 24-hour in stateroom dining.



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ITINERARY

COST

DETAILS

Jan. 7	Fort Lauderdale	Inside Stateroom	<p>All fares based on double occupancy Single fares 200% of listed fares Port charge: \$175 Taxes and Fees: \$139.14 Fully refundable deposit until payment due date of October 10, 2017</p>
Jan. 8	Key West	from \$ 554	
Jan. 9	At sea	Outside View	
Jan. 10	Costa Maya	from \$ 824	
Jan. 11	Cozumel	Balcony	
Jan. 12	Georgetown	from \$ 959	
Jan. 13	At sea	Ask about optional transfer hotel to ship	
Jan. 14	Fort Lauderdale		



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For information and reservations, please contact:

Courtyard Travel, 1010 Northern Blvd.
Suite 228, Great Neck NY 10021

Bobette at Courtyard: 800-437-9685, fax: 516-829-5427

Michael Stone: 941-359-8212

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