

PRIME TIMES

A NEWSLETTER FOR MATURE GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN

DECEMBER 2018

2018/Issue 6

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**PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE
SINCE 1987**



SAN ANTONIO WORLDWIDE CONVENTION

October 29-November 2, 2019

An exciting, affordable convention in a beautiful city! Our hotel is right on San Antonio's famed "Riverwalk".

Registration has begun; see [here](#) for updates and pages 16 and 17 for application form and details.

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A REGIONAL EVENT OPEN TO ALL CHAPTERS OF PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE

**BY SAM POWELL, CHAIRMAN OF INDEPENDENT CHAPTER,
PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE**

Heavy rain and cooler temperatures did not dampen the spirits of the attendees at the Carolinas PRIME Regional Event, held in North Myrtle Beach, SC at the Beach Cove Resort, October 25-28. Over 110 Prime Timers came from Denmark, Chicago, Boston, San Antonio, Dallas, Atlanta, Richmond, Norfolk, Knoxville, Charleston {WV}, several Florida chapters, Nevada, five North Carolina chapters, and, of course, the host state of South Carolina's Charles-



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ton, Myrtle Beach and Columbia chapters. In addition there were several guys who are not affiliated with a chapter AND, for a first at PRIME, there were four members of the Independent Chapter in attendance.

Acquaintances and friendships were made on Thursday and Friday nights in the hospitality suite. Smaller groups went to dinner on Friday night at a couple of great local restaurants. The program part of the

meeting was on Saturday morning with four excellent speakers: Warren Redman-Gress, Retired Executive Director of Alliance for Full Acceptance, Charleston, SC; Johanna Hayes, CEO, Careteam Plus, Inc., Conway, SC; Dr. Richard Wynn, Ballantyne Family Medicine, Charlotte, NC; and Kendra R. Johnson, Executive Director of Equality, NC, Raleigh, NC. At 2:00 PM, one breakout session was led by the



Thursday evening hospitality suite



Friday evening hospitality suite



Speaker Warren Redman-Gress



Speaker Dr. Richard Wynn



Speaker Johanna Hayes



Speaker Kendra R. Johnson

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Board of PTWW, meeting with various chapter officers to discuss items like chapter growth, financial security, relevance, etc. Dr. Wynn led the second 2:00 PM breakout session using the Q&A format, discussing medical topics.

On Saturday night, PRIME guys enjoyed a social time followed by a delicious banquet. The after-dinner entertainer was Michael Bairefoot, a most awarded comedy-magician who dazzled the audience with magic tricks. Then, the banquet event

closed with a drawing for 21 fantastic door prizes provided by the NC and SC PRIME Board members and their chapters. After the banquet, some guys dressed for the 8:30 PM Halloween Party. The party was in another large, conference center room that had been decorated by the Columbia Chapter guys using a Halloween theme. The highlight of the Halloween Party was the costume contest with the winners representing sailors, an Egyptian, and a shark.

This event was the second Carolinas PRIME event, with the first being held in Octo-



Cocktail hour



The banquet



Door prizes

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ber 2016, also at the Beach Cove Resort in North Myrtle Beach, SC. That event was so well received that the Carolinas PRIME Board planned the second event. The latter event experienced a 52% growth in attendance. The Carolinas PRIME Board is made up of representatives from five of the six Prime Timers Chapters in North Carolina and South Carolina. Regional events are helpful to Prime Timer

chapters and it is great when members and chapter leaders come to the regional and worldwide events. Special thanks go to the members of the Carolinas PRIME Board, and their chapter helpers, for hosting this second, fabulous regional event. Comments about the event can be submitted on the Carolinas PRIME website: www.primetimersww.com/carolinasprime

Charleston chapter receiving their charter



Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill chapter receiving their charter



Comedian-magician Michael Bairefoot



Halloween Party costume contest participants





All photos courtesy of Prime Timers Mid-Missouri

CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT: MID-MISSOURI

BY RAD FOUNTAIN, PRESIDENT, PRIME TIMERS MID-MISSOURI



We are a relatively new (2-year-old) chapter in mid-Missouri based in Columbia and our members live within a 30-mile radius of the city. Our group began with a Craigslist ad 4 years ago, asking for any gay men in the area who wanted to secretly get together. A dozen guys showed up answering the ad. We continued this way for a period of time. Then Roger Neil (past President and current Vice President) presented some information about Prime Timers and everyone thought that this was the way to go.

For a young group, we have been very busy. In these last couple of years, we were a sponsor of the Mid-MO pride fest, holding a photo booth and raising over \$250 of donations going to the center's project. Last Christmas, we sponsored a family in need by raising over \$500. This year, we hope to sponsor 5 senior citizens through a program called Volunteer Action that serve the basic needs of low income seniors. We also hold special event parties, games night, and are planning on starting a walking group.

We adopted a beautification spot inside the city of Columbia. How this works is that the city asks for sponsors to make the islands that divide the roads beautiful for 4 years to keep out weeds and pick trash off. The city provides everything while the sponsors provide the labor. We've had it since April and you can see the results below.



Our next election will be the 2nd Sunday of December (which also happens to be our regular monthly meeting with potluck/dinner/food normally held at a resident's house). Elected officers serve year-long terms with no maximum number of term limits. Our current board consists of 3 at-large members and 4 main officers (President, Vice President, Treasury, and Secretary). To date, we have no problems filling these positions.

Part of the reason, we believe is because we are a very close knit group: We use email and Kik, a social messenger group run by my husband, Rusty. The secretary also uses Kik to send out email announcements. There are currently 18 of us using Kik out of a total of 38 paid members.

Feel free to attend any of our events if you are in the area by checking out our [website](#).



CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT: MYRTLE BEACH

BY DON BAKER, PRESIDENT, PRIME TIMERS OF MYRTLE BEACH

The Myrtle Beach, South Carolina area, with its sixty miles of beaches and warm climate, is a combination resort and retirement destination. Many older gay men retire here not knowing anyone. Since 2007, Prime Timers has provided an instant network of friends they can enjoy being with who have had similar life experiences. Just as other chapters do, we include couples and singles from all walks of life.

There are two ways most newcomers find us. One is word-of-mouth. If you have an active, functioning club, your members will help spread the word to new guys they meet.

The other important tool is our website, which we set up using the Worldwide template and the assistance of Worldwide webmaster Tom Hammond. Three of us took the training on how to keep the website up to date. That is essential. A tired, out-of-date website gives the impression of a tired, out-of-date club.

Our site includes contact buttons that shoot inquiry emails to the appropriate officers and activities chairmen (without revealing our members' names or email addresses). Most of the website inquiries come to me as President, and as you can imagine, some of the guys who contact us are looking for a hook-up group. I let them know upfront that is not what Prime Timers is.

They usually get the message when they ask about our "adult activities" and I reply with our schedule for bocce, bowling, and canasta.

We are a very active chapter, providing a dozen or so "adult activities" each month, ranging from dining out and happy hour to the aforementioned bocce, bowling, and canasta. Our monthly social event may be anything from a visit to a museum to us locals doing touristy things like playing miniature golf or riding the Myrtle Beach Skywheel. Each activity is organized by its own chairman. The purpose is to provide an opportunity to enjoy each other's company and, most important, laugh together. We seem to laugh a lot whatever we're doing.

One of our most important members is our Friendship Committee chairman. He mails greeting cards to every member celebrating birthdays or anniversaries or suffering an illness or the loss of a partner or close family member. He also maintains our volunteer list of guys

willing to assist other members with transportation to doctor's visits or medical procedures.

Our membership hovers around 50-60, with about thirty very active members. Instead of a separate board meeting, we have a monthly membership meeting on the first Tuesday, where the various activity chairmen set out their schedules for the rest of the month *(continued next page)*

A recent visit to Ripley's Aquarium to see their Pearl Harbor exhibit



A visit to a local gallery. Three of our members are excellent artists.

and other necessary business is transacted. Input from the members is encouraged, communication stays open, and everyone who wants to be involved can be.

Our secretary emails the minutes to all members shortly after the membership meeting so that everyone knows what is going on. We find this to be more efficient and timely than repackaging the same information into a newsletter. Then, a few days before each activity, we send email reminders to all.

Our chapter has a long history of charitable giving, particularly to organizations dealing with HIV and those serving seniors, homeless LGBTQ youth, and disadvantaged children. We do not make donations directly to individu-

Yee haw! Our entry in a shopping cart race fundraiser for a local charity serving homeless LGBTQ youth.



Our annual picnic is free to members and guests (like Charlotte's Sam Powell, front row left).



als or to religious or political organizations. The Woody Baldwin bequest has enabled us to provide even more assistance. Of course, we also spend some of that money on ourselves, especially on our annual anniversary dinner and our autumn picnic, which are free to the individual members.

In 2016 and 2018, we served as the host chapter for the Carolinas Prime regional event. This October, after considerable planning by representatives from all the Prime Timers chapters in both Carolinas, over 120 men from across the country gathered in Myrtle Beach. But don't wait for some big event to occur. We are happy to welcome any Prime Timer to any of our Chapter's activities whenever you happen to be in the neighborhood.

THE HOLIDAY SEASON

BY JACK NIMMO, PRESIDENT, PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE



As a very diverse organization, the holiday season is celebrated in a variety of ways depending on our religious affiliation or non-affiliation, local customs, family traditions and other contributing factors that make the time from October through January special to us all. Usually, this is a happy time of year when we recall the celebrations we've had over the years. It's a time to reflect on friendships and our loved ones contributions to our lives. I hope that this season is filled with good memories and anticipation of a wonderful year in 2019.

The past three months have been a particularly busy and emotional time for me. I began this

time period with chapter visits to Hamilton and Toronto in Canada. What a wonderful set of chapters! To name all the things that made those visits wonderful would take this entire article. So, I will save the details to a future issue of *Prime Times*. It continued in England where I spent nine days in the English countryside where I had spent time with friends there. Remind me to tell you about the origins of "that's a cock and bull story"! On September 29th, I boarded a cruise ship with almost 40 other Prime Timers for a trans-Atlantic crossing. What a great group of guys representing 18 different chapters! We always seem to have fun together as we did in Scotland, Iceland, coastal Can-

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ada and New York City. It was there my voyage took a challenging turn.

Many of you reading this article don't really know if I'm single, married or otherwise connected. I've not spent a lot of time discussing my partner of eleven years, Tim Butler, in this set of articles as President. As our ship cruised out of New York harbor for Miami, I was on the phone with him for what would be our last conversation. As was his nature, Tim had concealed he was hospitalized with a minor heart issue and didn't want to spoil my trip. He wasn't a traveler but encouraged my adventures. Four hours later, he suffered a massive stroke and never regained consciousness. He passed away with friends and family at his bedside. I was there in disbelief that at age 55, Tim, would be gone and my life would be altered so unexpectedly.

October 17th began a series of events that prove the value of friends, neighbors and Prime Timers. Two wonderful, supportive services described Tim's contributions to the homeless and under-employed through his food pantry work, his individual acts of support to friends in tax preparation, immigration issues and acquiring government services. Things you just take for

granted as part of living can make major impacts on others without you even knowing it. That is where the lesson of a "passing" is learned. However, it should not be at a funeral.



Photo courtesy of Jack Nimmo

As this holiday season is upon us, it is a time to reflect on the things that make life meaningful. This is the time to say "I love you", "I'm sorry", "Thank you" or all the other things that make those we love so important to us. It is a time to reflect on the support and happiness provided by organizations like Prime Timers that contribute to your day-to-day happiness. It is a time to regroup, reflect on the good times and accept the support being offered by those that love you. I've begun that process by doing what Tim would have wanted me to do. Christmas was a big thing in our house so I made a Christmas tree in his honor with packages labeled with words that describe the wonderful person he was. I hope all of you will also take this holiday season to honor those who make your life worth living. I'm grateful for that last conversation from New York harbor. Have any conversation you need to have with those you love. You too, will be grateful someday. Happy holidays!

INDEPENDENT CHAPTER NEWS: THE "I GUYS"

BY SAM POWELL, CHAIRMAN OF INDEPENDENT CHAPTER, PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE

Photo courtesy of Sam Powell



I don't know if it was a first but four Independent Chapter members gathered at the recent Carolinas PRIME regional event so a picture was mandatory! It is a pleasure for me, as the Chairman of Independent Chapter, to work with the guys on the Independent Chapter list and it was a very great pleasure to meet some of them in person.

Our PTWW Independent Chapter has members from Canada, the Netherlands and the USA. I call us the "I Guys" and most don't live where there presently is a PT chapter. As "I Guys", Independent members get the PTWW newsletters and other periodic infor-

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mation from me regarding regional events and/or special communications from PTWW leadership. "I Guys" receive their membership roster so that they can contact each other, especially when traveling around to locations where Independent members live.

I hope that all you great local PT chapters/members will welcome the "I Guys" when they

are in your chapter area. It is great when we expand our communications and take the opportunity to learn more about other parts of our country, Canada and the Netherlands. And, I hope that more Independent Chapter members will be able to attend the PTWW convention in San Antonio in October 2019. Let's have more than four in the next "I Guys" picture!

CHAPTERS' EVENTS

CHATTANOOGA'S EARLY THANKSGIVING...

BY WAYNE HARTMAN, PRESIDENT, PRIME TIMERS CHATTANOOGA



The Chattanooga Prime Timers enjoyed a bountiful early Thanksgiving thanks to the culinary skills of many of its members. Forty members and guests were present. The news has spread that the Prime Timers meeting is the place to be for great food and a good company on the first Saturday of the month.

**...AND IN THE
SPIRIT OF
THANKSGIVING, A
THANK YOU NOTE
FROM PRESIDENT
WAYNE**

My husband, Glenn, recently passed away. He was a charter member of the Chattanooga Prime Timers. We shared 18 years together and were married in 2014.

I appreciate the support of the Chattanooga Prime Timers. They have been so kind to me and have helped me in so many ways. It is truly amazing. I am so lucky to be a Prime Timer.

All photos courtesy of Wayne Hartman





CHICAGO PRIME TIMERS' AWARDS AT ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE

BY MARVIN LEVIN, NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR, CHICAGO PRIME TIMERS

The Chicago Prime Timers (CPT) held their annual anniversary dinner-dance on October 20th and it included Service Awards to four of their members.

The awards ran the gamut from new members to long-term members.

Bob Noonan only joined CPT in February, but he's made his presence known very rapidly. He volunteers to help for many activities, such as phoning reminders to members who forgot to renew their membership and arranging for speakers (from the Alzheimer's Association) at the group's monthly Open Socials. His award certificate observes that "he spreads enthusiasm to both new and long-term members."

John Keating has been a member for over a dozen years and has become known as our unofficial photographer. He supplies a vast number of photos that appear in the CPT Herald, our monthly newsletter. In the words of John's award certificate, "When there is a social event ... you can usually find John there taking pictures."

John Marinelli, a three-year member, has served on the Board of Directors for the past two of those three years. He's the CPT Special Events Chairman, probably one of the most demanding positions on the Board. He's responsi-

ble for making sure the many activities CPT has have a place to be held, are organized, have people to man them, etc. etc. His award certificate sums it up nicely: "His job entails a lot and he does it exceptionally well."

Last, but not least, **Larry Lesperance** is a 20-year veteran of CPT. He received the club's Roy McIlrath Award, the highest honor for CPT

members. According to a write-up in the newsletter, "Every year since 1990, the Roy McIlrath award has been bestowed upon one Prime Timer deemed by a committee of our peers as outstanding for dedication to the club, concern for others, selfless-

ness, friendliness and a sense of humor." It's named for a well-respected member whose "... relatively early death from cancer prompted the board to create the McIlrath Award as a living memorial to his high-minded tradition of service." Although Larry is a long-term member of CPT, he only recently joined the Board. His award certificate sums up why the Board selected him for this award. "Larry's mind works throughout the day every day seeking things that would be useful to our members. These things ... were done while not acting as part of any particular committee. Larry, thank you for all your past commitments and dedication to Chicago Prime Timers. Your accomplishments have been noted."

Awardees (L-R) Bob Noonan, John Keating, John Marinelli, Larry Lesperance



Photo courtesy of Marvin Levin

ASHEVILLE CHAPTER HOLDS “TOM OF FINLAND” MOVIE BENEFIT

BY DAVID BAILEY, SECRETARY/TREASURER, ASHEVILLE PRIME TIMERS

When the folks at the Asheville Prime Timers chapter heard that an award-winning, documentary movie focusing on the life and art of Tom of Finland was going to be nationally released in 2018, we immediately put it on our list of group movie events “not to be missed.” After all, Tom is an icon in GLBT history, familiar to ALL our members, and his hyper-masculine art is featured in leather bars across the country (and the world!). We waited, and waited, and waited for screening dates in our local theatres for the movie, but to no avail. We even notified our local arthouse cinemas that this could be a film of interest to the large gay population in our region, but were unable to convince the venues to schedule the film. But we were determined!

So, we contacted one of our favorite cinemas (we’ve worked with them before), arranged a special, *one-time-only* exclusive screening of “Tom of Finland (the movie),” and opened the event to the whole community as a benefit with proceeds going to a local charity. Using Woody Baldwin funds as seed money, we secured the theatre, purchased some genuine Tom of Finland memorabilia for a raffle that evening, and started promoting the event. We convinced a local gay bar to host a

“Tom of Finland After Party” following the movie. We pulled out all the stops in our advertising for the movie and party (social media, the many LGBT interest groups in the area, even Growlr!), and timed the event to coincide with our immensely popular local Pride celebration.

We sold out the house (!) and were able to forward the significant net proceeds to the Blue Ridge Pride Center in Asheville. The movie was lots of fun, the crowd had a great time, our chapter got a lot of great PR, and we were able to support the community! “WIN-WIN-WIN” all around!

This is not the first time the Asheville chapter has used its resources to benefit the greater Asheville community. We’ve also donated to the Asheville Gay Men’s Chorus, Youth OUTright (benefitting gay youth), Loving Foods Resources (meals for the homebound), the Beer City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and the fledgling Knoxville Prime Timers chapter (our new neighbors).

We are happy to share our experience with other chapters, so if a fundraiser of this sort (for yourselves or for your local community) is something that you might consider, don’t hesitate to contact us.

Celebrate During Asheville's Pride Week
with A Film about the Influencer of mid 20th Century Gay Culture

Showing One Night Only
September 27, Thursday - 7:30 Pm
GRAIL MOVIEHOUSE 45 S French Broad Ave, Asheville 28801

Tom of Finland
2018 ACADEMY AWARDS

Sponsored by Asheville Prime Timers • Benefiting LGBTQ Non-Profits

Tickets: \$10.00 Available on line at
Grail moviehouse.com

Discover more about Tom of Finland and the movie at GayAsheville.com

Tom of Finland is an award winning film from Finland with English subtitles.

\$2

TOM OF FINLAND
(THE MOVIE)

\$2



~ THIS COUPON IS GOOD FOR \$2 AT THE GRAIL MOVIEHOUSE CONCESSION STAND ~
~ YOU'LL ALSO GET HALF PRICE OFF A FOUNTAIN DRINK OR POPCORNE! ~
~ ONE PER PRIME TIMER, PLEASE! ~ VALID AT THE 9/27/2018 SCREENING ONLY

HALLOWEEN PARTY IN PROVINCETOWN

BY HARRY FULLERTON, PRESIDENT, BOSTON PRIME TIMERS



It was our 21st year of going to Provincetown (P-Town) for our annual Halloween trip with the Boston, Connecticut and Rhode Island chapters. The dates were Oct 26th, 27th and 28th, a 3-day event. Ninety-six Prime Timers as well as a few guests/friends of Prime Timers from P-Town came for the event. We filled the

Provincetown Inn and enjoyed all the many goings-on around town as well as our own dinner and costume contest.

We'd like to invite members from other chapters to join us for the weekend of haunting festivities next year. As the time draws nearer, contact info will be posted in the Worldwide newsletter.



PTOP SECOND ANNUAL FALL PICNIC

BY HUCK FITTERER., NEWSLETTER EDITOR, PRIME TIMERS OF PHOENIX

Photo courtesy of Pete Urbaniak



Primer Timers of Phoenix held their Second Annual Fall Picnic in Rio Vista Park on Sunday, October 28, 2018. Sixty-three members attended the picnic catered by Dillon's Kansas City Style BBQ. They served pulled pork, brisket, chicken, and all the picnic trimmings. The meal was followed with birthday cake to recognize and celebrate the birthdays of our four members

who are Nonagenarian, a person who is 90 to 99 years old. They are pictured below from youngest to oldest: Dean Wells, 90 years old and a PTOB Board Member, John Strobel, 91 years old, Ken Todd, 91 years old and Jan Janecek, 97 years old. Happy Birthday to these handsome men, and we wish them many more birthdays! Both Dean and Jan attended the picnic!



Photo courtesy of above 4 pictures as follows from L to R: Gregg Edelman , John Strobel, Ken Todd, and Huck Fitterer

It's official, Dennis Hill and Huck Fitterer are the 2018 PTOB Cornhole Champions! At the picnic, they defeated Jimmy Kerr and Bill

Malaier in a nail-biting, drama-filled play off game. Congratulations Dennis and Huck!!

SAN ANTONIO WORLDWIDE CONVENTION

October 29-November 2, 2019

Registration has begun; see [here](#) for updates and pages 16 & 17 for application form and details.



HERE AND THERE

COMPILED BY JIM OLIN, SAN ANTONIO PRIME TIMERS

U.S. WEST

RENO: The High Sierra Prime Timers had a guest speaker at their November meeting. Kathy Baldock, a local author and a predominate female voice for inclusion of the LGBT community in conservative churches, addressed the chapter. Chapter president Larry is calling for a budget to keep expenditures in line with expenses. A list of fund raising strategies has been published in the newsletter. The club will hold its Christmas Dinner and Party in early December. There will be a buffet and gift exchange.

PALM SPRINGS: The Prime Timers of the Desert President welcomes new members and returning snowbirds. The Palm Springs chapter and Front Runners are going to the Riverside Mission Inn Festival of Lights in December. Transportation will be by motor-coach. A New Year Eve's party is planned at the Palm Springs Air Museum. It will be catered and features a champagne toast when the clock strikes midnight on the east coast.

DENVER: President Dick writes about "why does time feel like it goes so much faster as we age". He mentions that there are some theories to explain the phenomenon. One example is that as we age we become familiar with our surroundings. Often children see the world as new and unfamiliar. The chapter had a free Thanksgiving Lunch the day before Thanksgiving. The chapter is working on its Christmas Party plans. The location and menu has been set. Christmas gifts and favors have been chosen and wrapped.

LAS VEGAS: President Ray thanks the board members individually, highlighting what each position entails and how each current board member works on that position. A new board was elected in November. The chapter had their Thanksgiving event on Thanksgiving day. A Christmas party and dinner is planned for mid-December.

SEATTLE: In President Dennis' message, he talks about community values of freedom, diversity and dignity. He mentions the winter holidays as a time to celebrate peace and goodwill. Members may choose from many programs and

activities in and around Seattle for LGBT Seniors. The chapter's Christmas Party will have a complementary buffet. The gift exchange will be in view of the Space Needle.

U.S. SOUTH

SAN ANTONIO: SA Prime Timers are moving ahead on preparations for hosting the October Prime Timers Worldwide convention. This year's Christmas Party will be held in the same hotel as the October Convention. On November 11th, the chapter released a Veterans Day Special Edition newsletter to members. Seventy-seven members have identified themselves as U.S. Veterans. Twenty-four of them submitted their military stories for the special newsletter. SA Prime Timers were motivated by the Tampa Bay chapter that did a similar project for Memorial Day.

NEW ORLEANS: The President mentions plans for the December's Christmas Party. The chapter newsletter had several pictures of Prime Timer members participating in events around New Orleans. A member recently retired. He was previously unable to attend some events due to his work schedule and now is pleased to have opportunities to attend more activities.

CENTRAL FLORIDA: The Orlando chapter's ongoing program "Good Deeds" is expanding in December, providing holiday gifts to people in need. Toys will be collected and given to Nicks Family Diner's Christmas distribution program. Seniors First which runs the area Meals on Wheels and other services will be a beneficiary as well as Hope and Help of Central Florida, an AIDS service organization. In October, members took a Sun Rail (Commuter Railway) excursion to Sanford. Plans are in the works for their Christmas dinner on a riverboat cruise.

TAMPA BAY: The November newsletter started out with the words THANKS-LIVING. Several members shared their memories and comments about the Thanksgiving Season. Here are some of the titles which give a hint to the content: Brad - An Old Fashioned Thanksgiving; Wally - Fish and Pie; Chuck - A Year of Thanksgiving; Steve - An Unseen Hand; Wil - Friends, Family and Cornbread Chicken Dressing; Charles - The Per-

(continued next page)



son I Wish I Could Thank. The Chapter newsletter has a similar feature in the December issue with the theme of members' memories and comments of the Winter Holiday Season.

U.S. MIDWEST

COLUMBUS: The chapter had a Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Members brought side dishes. The annual Christmas party will be in mid-December. President John reminds members if someone is unable to afford the cost of the Christmas party, the Board will accommodate them and keep the information private.

WICHITA: President Steve took a minute to thank all members for making Wichita Prime Timers the friendliest group in Wichita. He has heard compliments on the members congeniality, especially the new members. In addition to Thanksgiving and Christmas pot lucks, club members will prepare a meal to serve to others during the holiday season. Some members were interested in seeing the movie *Bohemian Rhapsody*. The cost is under \$6 and includes popcorn. They are also looking forward to seeing the film, *Boy Erased*.

CINCINNATI: Tri-State President Ted held the October monthly meeting in the barn on his property. Ted shares that he grew up in rural northern Indiana. On his Ohio property, he has had horses and chickens and much lawn to mow. His farm is located in an area that was the basis of a 1901 novel about the area. Ted has become friends with a grandson of the farmer who worked the land over a hundred years ago. The meeting also served as a pot-luck. A hike was also offered to members. Ted noted the trail is uphill starting out, which means it's downhill coming back.

CENTRAL IOWA: The Des Moines chapter decided that due to heavy member commitments, the winter holiday party would be held in January instead of December. Holding a progressive dinner was discussed as an event. Different courses of the meal would be served at different locations. President Jim discusses a Caribbean cruise out of Miami. The newsletter is loaded with pictures, thanks to photographer Gary.

MIAMI VALLEY: Dayton chapter President Ron wrote to the membership that the chapter is growing. He reminded members to welcome

new members. He mentioned helping fellow Prime Timers when they are not showing up for events. Ron is interested in members discussing some of the chapter's history that newer members are not aware of. He thanked chapter volunteers and reminded members that suggestions are welcome.

MINNEAPOLIS ST PAUL: The club had a recent breakfast at the Bad Waitress Coffee Shop. Breakfast is paid for when you order. Coffee refills are self-served. The chapter also held a Thanksgiving breakfast the morning of Thanksgiving day. The chapter's book group read Ricardo Brown's memoir about his 1945 military discharge and socializing at a downtown St Paul bar. It catered to blue collar workers during days and working class gay men and lesbians in the evenings.

CANADA

VANCOUVER: In Chairman Tony's column written in September, he muses about his career as a teacher remembering the excitement of school starting in September. Long vacations were mentioned too. Member Greg writes about the cost of living in Vancouver. He wonders if moving out to the suburbs can affect older gay people in that they could lose the sense of living in a gay community. The chapter had a successful Labour Day outing with a Harbour cruise. They passed cruise ships and saw Silver Falls, among several sights of interest. The chapter's Book Club has its selections out for January and February of 2019. Authors David Sedaris and Armistead Maupin's books were selected.

NANAIMO: The chapter is planning their December Holiday party. They have also adopted a new constitution. The Directors are asking members for event suggestions. The election of Directors is scheduled for early December.

HAMILTON: The chapter has wrapped up fall activities. The chapter celebrated Canadian Thanksgiving Dinner Prime Timer Style in October. A Halloween party was held. Prior to Remembrance Day, the club took a trip to the Canadian Warplane Museum. A remembrance day parade and service was held in Hamilton. The club took their last hike of the season. There was an out-of-town November trip to the quaint village of St Jacobs, Ontario. Another trip was to Niagara Falls for the closing day of the "Cascade of Fire" fireworks competition. The Annual Holiday Party is coming in early December.



WorldWide Prime Timers Convention

October 29 – November 2, 2019 San Antonio, Texas

Event Registration: Please fill in all the information. Only ONE person per form.
If you register as a guest without a Chapter affiliation it will cost more. \$215

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt. #: _____

City: _____ State (country if not US): _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Name you want on tag: _____

Handicap accessible or other special needs: _____

Prime Timers Chapter or Independent Member, or Guest: _____

Emergency contact name: _____ Phone: _____

Shirt Size: Small Medium Large XLarge 2XLarge 3XLarge

Note: Only available with registrations postmarked before Sept 30, 2019

Banquet Food Selection: Circle your choice:

Chicken Breast Prime Rib Vegetarian Any food allergies: _____

HOTEL: You must make your own hotel reservation. Your hotel room is not included in event price. To receive the special room rate of \$124 (1 or 2 per room) \$132 (3 or 4 per room) plus tax per night you MUST ask for the "Worldwide Prime Timer Event" Rooms can be reserved at the convention price for 3 days before and 3 days after the convention. Rooms are LIMITED. There is an extra charge of \$16 plus tax per day for parking with in and out privileges.

El Tropicano River Walk San Antonio

Address: 110 Lexington Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78205

Phone 210 277 4043 Reservations or 210 277 4039 Admin Staff 8-5 PM Mon- Fri

E-mail for reservations is reservations@eltropicano.com

Code for reservations is PTWW

TRANSPORTATION:

Bus schedules, routes, fares and discounts plus other information on public transportation are available at <http://www.viainfo.net/bus-schedules/>

The city also operates Viva Centro with routes in the downtown area to get visitors to museums, missions and points of interest. Information on routes, times and discounts are available at: <http://www.viainfo.net/viva-routes/>

REGISTRATION INCLUDES: All scheduled general meetings on the hotel property. A first floor hospitality suite will be available daily with snacks, drinks and alcoholic beverages. Daily breakfast, lunch on October 30th, a special polo shirt, Halloween Masquerade Ball on October 31st with entertainment and a Banquet with entertainment on November 1st.



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Find out what makes San Antonio an important part of American history while taking in San Antonio's Spanish influences! Explore the grounds at Mission San José, Concepción, San Juan, and San Francisco de Espada. See original frescos at Mission Concepcion- the oldest un-restored stone church in the nation. Explore Mission San Jose, the Queen of the Missions. Enjoy mission silhouettes with Spanish and Moorish influenced architecture against the South Texas Sky and see one of the finest examples of baroque architecture.

Registration is \$175.

Non Prime Timer Registration: If you are not a member of a Prime Timers Chapter the cost to register will be \$215 while the \$175 rate for members is in place. Non member rate will go up as will the member rate as time passes.

Cancellation requests must be received at least 30 days prior to the event (September 30, 2019) \$50 cancellation fee. Exceptions for death or major illness will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Mail your check and this application to:

**San Antonio Prime Timers
P.O. Box 6421
San Antonio, 78209**

Keep a copy for yourself

QUESTIONS: Contact SAPT Worldwide Event Committee
Email: saptnews@yahoo.com

2019 PRIME TIMERS CONVENTION SAN ANTONIO

GENE POOLE, INCOMING VICE PRESIDENT, SAN ANTONIO PRIME TIMERS



As the incoming Vice President for San Antonio Prime Timers (SAPT), I want you to know we are looking forward to hosting the 2019 Prime Timers Convention in San Antonio, October 29th to November 2nd, 2019. Approximately 150 registrations have already been received. Many

have also already made reservations at the hotel. We have blocked 275 rooms and will have the entire hotel for the conference. Some rooms can accommodate as many as 4 people. We look forward to a large gathering. We will have a hospitality suite with snacks, free alcohol and soft drinks. The hotel will allow us to have ice chests with free beer around the pool for participants.

There are lots of fun things to do in San Antonio. Watch the [videos](#) to the conference for a view of the hotel and the River Walk: The convention will take place as San Antonio celebrates Dia de Los Muertos (All Saints Day). There will be festivals and decorations celebrating this annual event. The downtown area known as La Villita is the center of the activity for this festival. Most everything such as the Alamo, Imax theater, Hard Rock Café, Margaritaville, The River Walk Mall, restaurants and shopping are within walking distance of the hotel. The hotel is directly on the River Walk. Pan Dulce (Mexican Sweet Bread) is available in downtown San Antonio bakeries along with lots of authentic Mexican food at multitudes of restaurants. My favorite Pan Dulce is a toss-up between a Concha (Sea Shell) or Pumpkin Empanada. Hope to see you in San Antonio and guide you to some of our favorite places.

PRIME TIMERS TRANSATLANTIC CRUISE

BY LARRY LESPERANCE, CHICAGO PRIME TIMERS

Forty-nine Prime Timers enjoyed a September-October cruise from London to Miami.

This was a repositioning cruise. Most cruise lines offer tours of European ports in summer and ports in the Caribbean, western Mexico, and between Los Angeles and Hawaii in winter. The ships are repositioned between Europe and the Americas. These ships were previously moved with a crew but without passengers until cruise lines learned that if they dropped the base price low enough, customers would eagerly book this passage during the off season. Look at any cruise line website to see how prices start low at the beginning of the cruising season, increase during the prime travel season, then fall again at the end of the season. The low-priced transatlantic crossings, such as this one promoted by Prime Timers Worldwide (PTWW), are repositioning cruises. Few children and teens are on board as school is back in session. On the downside, the best weather is past, something we experienced in Reykjavik where it was 41F/5C.

While the base price is low, cruise lines profit through gambling casinos, beverages, shops, tour excursions while at port, wifi service, professional photo-taking, laundry and spa packages; you can even buy botox treatments. Cabin choices range from a luxurious suite with a picture window to a smallish but comfortable interior cabin with no window at a lower cost. If you are selective, off-season cruising is a travel bargain.

Access to gay cruise groups is a perk of being part of PTWW. This is not like an RSVP cruise where LGBTQ passengers fill the entire

ship. Our group of Prime Timers was but a small subset of the 2,400 passengers. Courtyard Travel, a New York State company, organizes the tours.



Photo courtesy of Larry Lesperance

Michael Stone and his husband, Robert Rosenthal, both Florida PTs, are the group leaders. For gay singles looking to avoid paying the single supplement, they take your contact information and, with your permission, share it with another man who is looking for a roommate. It's up to the two of you to talk and decide whether you are a good match as travel companions. Such pairs of men meeting for the first time have been a part of all four PT cruises I've attended. Some singles return a year later with a different roommate, one that they met on an earlier cruise.

Before departure, Michael and Robert sent recommendations for gay clubs, top tourist sites, and dining spots at each port.

A shuttle arranged by Courtyard Travel picked up Tom and me at Gatwick Airport and delivered us to the H10 Hotel near Waterloo Station where the Prime Timers stayed. The next morning, we ate at the hotel breakfast buffet, then enjoyed a half-day bus tour of London, stopping for short walks to stand before Buckingham Palace and at the Thames River near the London Eye, a huge ferris wheel, and London Bridge.

During a full day of free time, the group dispersed to pursue individual interests. One raved about the underground rooms built for Winston Churchill and his wartime government as protection from Nazi bombing raids. Tom and I explored the shops

(continued next page)

and street life around Lower Marsh plus spent a day at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Once onboard the Norwegian Jade, Michael and Robert sponsored PT social events with an opening reception with get-to-know-each-other activities, before-dinner cocktail

meetups, and a 'gaymes' party. During days at sea, they showed gay films. On this cruise, we saw *Stonewall: When Pride Began, God's Own Country*, and *Love, Simon*. At these events, you make new friends. You'll spend time alone only when you want to.

The Chicago PT played Double Train Dominoes in the Card Room whenever we had a full day at sea.

All the ships today have gay meetups. They used to be listed as 'Friends of Dorothy' so straights didn't suspect just who Dorothy's friends are. Today, the events are listed as LGBTQ gatherings. Several PT made new friends from outside PT.

During dinners, Norwegian grouped us at three large tables. You could choose to dine at a later time or, at extra cost, at one of the specialty restaurants. Meals with many choices in the dining room or at the buffet are included in the basic cruise price. You never had fewer than eight choices each of appetizers, entrées, and deserts.

The ship offers entertainment all day long: small musical groups in the lounges, contests, lectures about upcoming ports and other topics, and games. Large-scale shows vary each night: bands, dancing troupes,

singers, a juggler, a violinist, a celebrity impressionist, and a hypnotist. You can't attend all the entertainment options.

A fitness center is open all day. An older ship, the Norwegian Jade does not have an indoor solarium pool, so on select days, there is outdoor swimming, weather permitting. The fit-

ness center came with exercise classes, workout machines, free weights, shower, and steam room. You can buy an optional spa package for access to a sauna, steam room, jacuzzi, and massages.

With so many passengers, you can't help meeting people with values different from yours. As the PTs were grouped together in

the dining room, we were instructed to bypass the wait line and go directly to our assigned tables. The second night, one M/F couple blocked my way, objecting to men walking past those who were waiting. When one PT explained that we were instructed by staff to walk right in, she stepped aside but behind us, we heard the husband bark that the cruise ship gives special rights to gays. George's retort that, "I guess we know who voted for Trump", elicited giggles from the waiting straights. Behind us, the wife berated the staff. I wondered how this couple reacted when one number of a stage production set in a country & western bar dubbed 'Blazing Boots' featured a female singing a lesbian-themed song, *I Got A Girl Crush*, which included the lyrics, "*I want to kiss her lips*". While this one couple may have shared their dislike for gays, many straights were pleased to hear a group for gay seniors who travel was onboard. A straight couple from Toronto recorded the Prime Timers website for their son; a couple from Baltimore did the same for a gay friend.

Some of the Chicago Prime Timers



Photo courtesy of Larry Lesperance

As we are seniors, some in the group have mobility issues. I observed many instances of group members taking a slower pace or choosing a less taxing shore excursion to keep a fellow traveler company.

While some read books, do needlepoint, or work alone at their computers and phones, most cruise passengers socialized with others every hour. Whether you chat on the elevator, a lounge, or the dining rooms, it is easy to talk with couples from Britain, Japan, Germany, Curacao, Canada, and many states in a short time.

Prime Timers tend to sit together at breakfast and lunch. You share as much of your life story as you feel comfortable. It felt like a big college dorm with a strong gay contingent. We compared chapters and their activities. In Sarasota, you can sign up for small events on a sheet passed around during the monthly social, thus making RSVP calls to the host unnecessary. One Prime Timer, Steven, explained his belonging to four chapters, two in Florida near his inland home and oceanfront condo, Indianapolis for when he spends two summer months at the family farm, and Cincinnati, where he stops while driving between Florida and Indiana. When Steven heard about the Chicago chapter's extensive activities, he requested to join for when he visits the Windy City. A friendly guy, he invited us to picnic at his Indiana farm.

In most ports, we chose among the cruise line shore excursions; each has an extra charge. In Iceland, Michael and Robert arranged a Gray Line Golden Circle tour. Our bus roamed the countryside with multiple stops at natural and historic sites. Our guide, Jakob,

a retired actor and storyteller, entertained us with local facts and lore. We saw hot springs and a stunning waterfall. Some PT skip the tour to walk through town. In Portland, Maine, Tom's college roommate and his husband met us at the pier and showed us around. Some PT stay onboard when the ship docks and enjoyed the onboard activities.

When younger, I traveled Europe by car or train. I liked checking my bags at the train station while I visited tourist sites. Most are within walking distance of the station. If I wanted to stay

longer, tourist information booths helped me find overnight accommodations in my price range. The threat of terrorist bombings led authorities to close station baggage rooms, so now you walked a block or more to store your bags. As I use a CPAP machine for sleep apnea, true for many Prime Timers, I need distilled water each night. It's not

easy traveling with a gallon of water. Searching for distilled water in each new town and in a foreign language is a nuisance. On the ship, a gallon of distilled water is waiting in my room. When cruising, you move your luggage just once. That, plus the meals and entertainment, make cruising my favorite means for travel abroad. On the downside, you give up some flexibility and personal choice. Your visits are limited to the number of hours the ship is in port and the sites you see are limited to designated excursion stops.

During these cruises, many PT from across the country exchange contact information with the promise to exchange visits.

Woody Baldwin founded Prime Timers as a place for older gay men to socialize, to make new friends, and to have fun. Taking a cruise with PT accomplishes those goals in short order.

Photo courtesy of Joe Cain





Michael & Robert, Prime Timers World Wide, Family & Friends, and
(We have had former wives, siblings, adult children and friends join us)

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Rhapsody of the Seas

7 night Western Caribbean Cruise

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SHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Columbus Ohio Prime Timers would like to invite all Prime Timers and friends to share the comradery of a Caribbean cruise. Rhapsody of the Seas delivers an unforgettable cruise experience, no matter the hemisphere. Conquer the sea and relax away the stress of life on land-at the VitalitySM Spa or glass-canopied Solarium adults-only pool. This is a ship built for adventure, too, with Rock Climbing, Casino RoyaleSM, and entertainment including shows and live music.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Pricing starts with a Interior \$503.00 per person, Outside \$615 per person , Balcony \$1072.00 per person, and Deluxe /suites \$1287.00 per person.

STEPS

1. Simply choose your accommodations on board the beautiful Rhapsody of the Seas. Call your travel agent, Cynthia at 614-783-4180
2. You will receive a \$50 - onboard credit
3. Pay your \$100 per cabin deposit to reserve your cabin. The full \$500 refundable deposit is due 30 days after reserving your cabin
4. Pay your final payment. 11/11/18

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Ronald Camp 614 581-2700

<http://www.primetimerswww.org/copt/index.php/cactivities/travel>

<https://www.caribbeanweddingtravel.com/primetimerscaribbeancruise/>

Michael and Robert, Prime Timers World Wide, Family & Friends and
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January 15 - January 22, 2020

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Jan. 15, 2020 Fort Lauderdale	Leaves 4:00 !
Jan. 16, 2020 Havana, Cuba*	Arrives 8:00 AM
Jan. 17, 2020 Leave Havana	Departs 2:00 AM!
Jan. 18, 2020 Arrive Cienfuego	Arrive. 8:00 AM. Depart 5:00 PM!
(tender required-Wheelchair Access Limited)!	
Jan. 19, 2020 Ocho Rios, Jamaica	Arrive 10:00 AM"Depart 5:00 PM!
Jan. 20, 2020 Georgetown, Grand Cayman	Arrive 8:00 AM"Depart 5:00 PM!
(tender required - Wheelchair Access Limited)!	
Jan. 21, 2020 At Sea!	
Jan. 22, 2020 Arrive Fort Lauderdale	7:00 AM!

* OVERNIGHT VISA REQUIRED (the cruise line will issue visas and add approx \$75 to your onboard statement)!

Additional charges are Port Tax \$170 and Government Tax \$210. !

All rates are per person based on double occupancy. !

Rates are subject to change and can be withdrawn at anytime.

Inside from: \$839!

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Balcony from: \$2,339!

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Proceeds to benefit Prime Timers

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THE BACK PAGE

BY ADRIAN LIAU, NEWSLETTER EDITOR. PRIME TIMERS WORLDWIDE

Whenever someone writes an article or a little blurb about an event from their chapter, I usually receive more pictures than I can fit in the newsletter. For this particular issue, there was an unusually large number of pictures that didn't make it to the newsletter. So instead of the usual quiz or "did you know?" items normally found in this page, I decided to do an "extra pictures" piece, similar to your "extra scenes" found in a DVD. Here, in no particular order of importance are some of the pictures related to the articles found in this newsletter that didn't make it to the original article. Enjoy!

Chicago's Anniversary cake (John Keating)



Myrtle Beach chapter enjoying a meal (Prime Timers of Myrtle Beach)



Transatlantic cruise stop at St John's, Newfoundland (Joe Cain)



More costumes from P-Town's Halloween party (Harry Fullerton)



Family sponsorship last Christmas by Mid-MO Chapter (Prime Timers Mid-MO)