

PRIME TIMES

The Official Newsletter for Prime Timers Worldwide vol. 33-5

Sep-Oct 2020

Keeping the Winds in Your Chapter Sails When Docked in a Pandemic

When we Prime Timers cannot socialize in-person, then our momentum to provide activities is stalled. Temporarily, at least.

Health rules and personal protection can be respected and Prime Timers can still

Facebook Page Officially Reactivated to Connect Prime Timers Worldwide

PTWW has its online FB opportunities and communication back from a 4-year hiatus.

This is a 5000+ members "Private" forum for mature gay/bi/trans men coming together for friendship, support, activities and thoughtful discussion. Each member request must be closely vetted by a Group Administrator, allowing only accepted members to read, post, make comments and see other members' posts.

Each submitted post is also reviewed to ensure content does not border on overtly political, religious, or solicitous content.



Check out more via the FB link below!

facebook.com/groups/PrimeTimersWW/



connect for socializing in differing face-to-face interactions. Chapters should strive to reach out and keep in touch, even with a phone call leaving a message. Less risky outdoor picnics, patio eat outs, and walking groups are planned as local conditions and individual personal safety are respected.

zoom is the most popular video meeting tool.

Here are just a few examples of new video opportunities across several Chapters, with two event details continued on page 5.

- **Edmonton, Raleigh, TriState, Metro Portland, Colorado** each have weekly or monthly meetings or socials.
- **Charlotte** hosts a Friday happy hour plus scavenger hunts and had a remote guest speaker on LGBT history.
- **Chicago** hosted a speaker on avoiding internet scams and phishing, and book/movie discussion groups
- **St. Louis** has monthly games, chapter meetings, and discussion groups.
- **Austin TX and Dallas/Fort Worth** have an "I-35 Bingo Challenge" game.

Keep up with technology to keep in touch today!

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Prime Timers Worldwide is Open for Business

You seeing “**We Are Open For Business**” signs along the roads telling the world each is still open during this pandemic. And it’s welcoming you to check in and see what’s happening now and planned for the future.

When this is over, can you imagine how many gay/bi men will be seeking out new in-person social opportunities? Lots of ‘em!

Each Prime Timer Chapter needs to be there standing ready to again get together for our local brands of socializing.

Here is how the Board is looking forward:

- OCT 2021 Convention is progressing with hotel negotiations and scheduling. More on page 6.
- Chapters are grouped into regions, each assigned a Director-at-Large for regular Zoom updates with local leaders.
- Multi-Chapter events are being planned for 2021, considering travel and health guidelines.
- The Strategy & Future Committee has outlined how we should operate. Page 3 begins its report.

Some Chapters are in “good health” for its members and finances. Yet others are

struggling to maintain both contact and interest during these months due to health and individual restrictions. How is your Chapter doing to keep active these days?

Contact PTWW if you have questions on how to boost your Chapter’s energy, or provide answers and options. We can help!

Be encouraged as we ALL keep strong and make it back together. *Jim, PTWW Treasurer*

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always online at: primetimersww.com

Strategy & Future of Prime Timer Chapters *part 1*

This is the initial report of the 21-President Committee that identified how each Chapter can provide energizing and recruiting opportunities. The full Committee report is posted online at:

<https://theprimetimersww.com/best-practices-in-chapter-operations/>

Brand and Logo Refreshing

- A. Each Chapter has the liberty to determine its nameplate, to use the words “A Chapter Of Prime Timers Worldwide” if Prime Timers is not a part of the name.
- B. The Worldwide logo is being redesigned to better identify PTWW’s mission for gay and bisexual men. Lack of racial diversity and implied handshaking risks were factors.
- C. On 22-AUG, the PTWW Board voted to drop the requirement that each Chapter “will use some form of handshake logo.” This will be put to a vote of all Chapters to delete Bylaws Section 3.02.9.

However, if a handshake is displayed in a Chapter logo, diversity should be considered in the design phase of the project.



Motivating All Members with New Video Technology

- D. Zoom, Google Meet, Facetime, other video tools are usually free.
 - Chapters are producing online sessions for various meetings. See page 5.
 - Prime Timers Worldwide is offering “start up” and “loaner” Zoom rooms for those Chapters wanting a test or initial video session. Get your Chapter Zooming today! For more information, just email PTWW VP Sam below at:

ptww.vicepresident.org@gmail.com

Regional Zoom Leadership Communication

- E. As part of the Chapter Care Program, Prime Timers Worldwide will establish a regular schedule of Zoom video sessions with Chapter leaders.
 - In JUL, Directors-at-Large Rafael, Henry, Don, and A.J. invited each Chapter President and Liaison to participate in exchanging news and updates, along with up to three other local leaders to attend.
 - Chapter participation was spotty, ranging from 9% to 50% over the four Regional Zoom sessions.
 - The next scheduled calls for Regional Leaders will be mid-JAN 2021.

Part 2 will be published in the NOV-DEC *Prime Times*

Social Bubbling - Keeping Safe

"Bubbles" are a middle-ground approach that expands social interaction and contains risk by limiting exposure to coronavirus.

Prime Timers are creating a limited "social bubble"



with <12 fellow Prime Timers from different households who are adhering to the same "stay healthy" guidelines, like using face coverings when it is not possible to maintain the 6-feet or 2-meters away from the next bubble guys.

No person may be a member of more than one "social bubble" during a three-week period

to limit exposure or spread. This keeps flexibility on changing health guidelines. Discussion and agreement are needed so each member really adheres to bubble rules on inside dining, group events, travel, and relatives.

Check the link below for more information:



abcnews.go.com/Health/form-covid-19-social-bubble/story?id=70912495

Safe and Social: Our New World with COVID-19

PTWW encourages all Chapters to follow CDC or Canada Health guidance as provinces and states re-open facilities with rules for group activities.

Each Prime Timer has his individual comfort level on going out or not. All must respect social distancing and face covering rules to reduce spreading this coronavirus.

Some Chapters are having indoor dine outs again, or outdoors picnic while oth-

ers will not schedule events until later.

Scheduling social activities during this pandemic is a Chapter-by-Chapter decision based on local risk factors and if individuals feel safe to attend.

Check the safe-for-group guidelines at CDC.GOV link below for more info.

Keep healthy and safely look forward for when we again can get together.

Mark

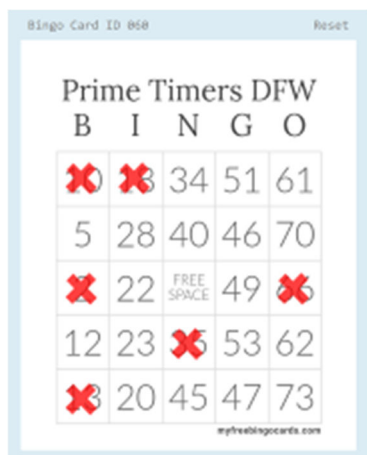
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/going-out.html

Chapters Zooming for Interacting Games & Fun

Austin & Dallas-Fort Worth

PTDFW thanks Prime Timers St. Louis, Bob B. and Charles C., for sharing their learning experience with online games!

Ralph B, Mike J., and Mark H. staged this 3rd Bingo Game for PTDFW and invited Austin Chapter and other connected Prime Timers for multi-chapter game .



Players may use either a VIRTUAL card or print out a PDF file at home. VIRTUAL cards can be viewed on a smart phone!



Everyone logs into a private Zoom session to see and hear the called numbers.

The game patterns are displayed in a Zoom window for all players to view.

Call 25: I-22

Call 24: N-33

Call 23: B-11

[see all](#)

B	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
I	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
N	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
G	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
O	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75

18-AUG Game Winners

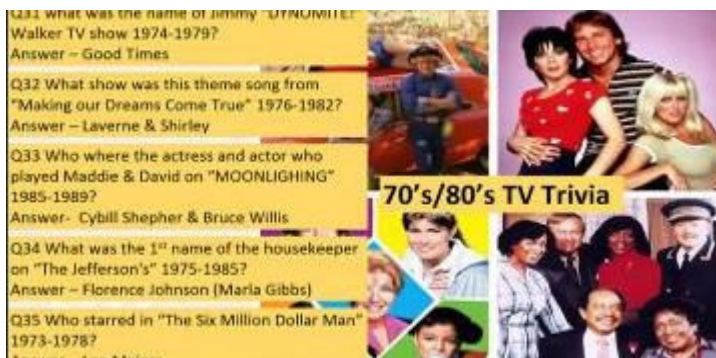
AJ R.	Cross Timbers PT (Ranger TX)
Jason G.	Dallas-Fort Worth
Robert L.	Ft. Lauderdale via Austin
Stan A.	Dallas-Fort Worth

Charlotte NC

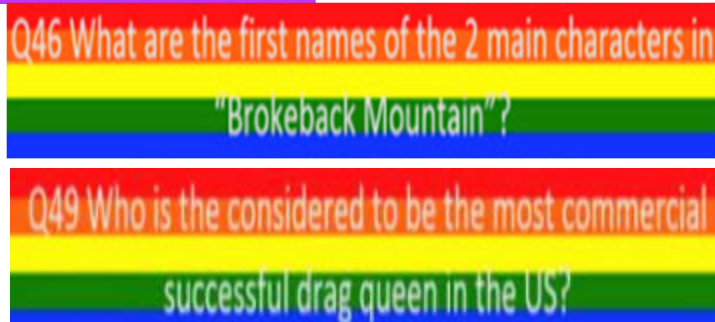


Thanks to Nick B., Secretary of the Charlotte Prime Timers, for hosting a fun-filled game of Trivia on Zoom, 18-AUG.

There were 10 categories with 5 questions each in World Geography, Brand Slogans, Retailer Trivia, Sports, Movie Quotes, U.S. History, TV Trivia, Animal Trivia, American City, and of course Gay Trivia.



Will A. with 37 correct answers was the overall winner.
Bill S. was next with



“Convention, Convention! It’s Only a Year Away”

Chattanooga, y’all!

Tennessee hospitality, a schedule of official PTWW workshops, and a focus on more social activities will make this a fun and rewarding week all Prime Timers!

THU Excursion Day

OPTIONAL day trips to nearby sight-seeing and entertainment locations give you more socializing time, as requested by YOU!

March 2021

Hotel reservations and convention registration be online, along with a meeting schedule, individual workshops, and excursions.

Tentative Day by Day Schedule

MON 11-Oct holiday	TUE 12-Oct	WED 13-Oct	THU 14-Oct	FRI 15-Oct	SAT 11-Oct
Columbus Day & CAN Thanksgiving Registration begins Table games set-up Daily sessions will be included for: <i>Friends of Bill W.</i> <i>Singles Mingle</i> <i>Morning Walks</i>	Opening Session and Lunch Chapter Workshops PM#1 with same time personal development sessions or city tours #1 for conventioners. WW Welcoming Reception	PTWW General Business Meeting Presidents/Reps Roundtables Prime Games Championships <i>Dominoes/Trains, Party Bridge, ???</i>	Open day with no official business. Optional all-day trip US Space & Rocket Center in Alabama Optional all-day trips to Nashville, Dollywood, or Atlanta Prime Games at hotel/hospitality <i>Dominoes/Trains, Party Bridge, ???</i>	Chapter Workshops AM#2 with same time personal development sessions or city tours #2 for conventioners. Chapter Workshops PM#3 with same time personal development sessions or city tours or museums #3 . Closing Banquet	After-Glow option Lookout Mountain Oktoberfest/lunch TN Aquarium (4 blocks, street shuttle available) Prime Games <i>Dominoes/Trains,</i>

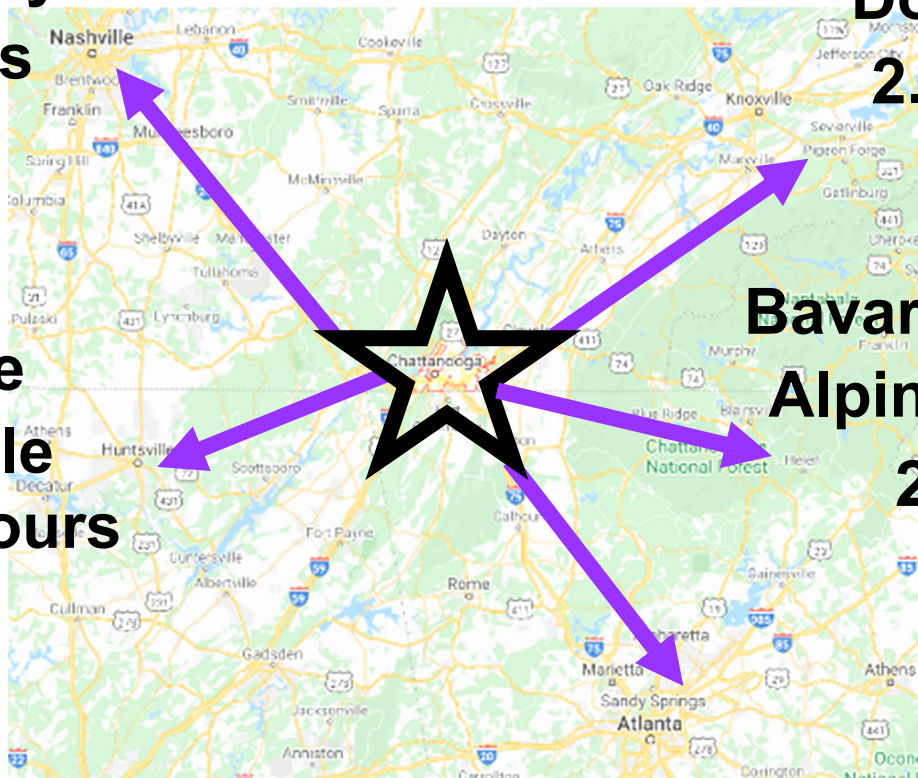
Music City
2.0 hours

Dollywood
2.5 hours

Space Shuttle
2.0 hours

Bavarian-style Alpine village
2.5 hours

Atlanta
1.5 hours





Colorado Prime Timers Adapts

Rafael De Jesus, President, Colorado Prime Timers



Photo courtesy of Colorado Prime Timers

In March, Colorado Prime Timers regrettably canceled all events focusing first on membership safety. Our Board, along with input from our members, had to re-tool our approach. We are using the Summer months to modify our events to outside activities within the COVID protocols established by state and city officials!

These weekly activities include a Coffee Hour at Panera Bread on Monday mornings, a slow-paced 2.5-mile walk at Washington Park on Tuesdays, and a picnic at Observatory Park on Wednesdays. The

park's central Denver locations provide reasonable travel for our members. And for those who are not yet comfortable meeting in-person, we hold a weekly Virtual Happy Hour (via Zoom) on Thursdays. To encourage participation, we have a volunteer that sends out an email listing of our events weekly to our membership roster.

We use social networks (mainly Facebook and Instagram) to keep members engaged with our club through stories from our LGBTQ+ community; some of which

are COVID-related. For example, we shared the news about the 90-year-old resident who decided to come out as Gay during the quarantine. This person made national news, but he's a Colorado resident and accounts for many in our community who have challenges with closeted sexuality. Such communication can also inspire members that it is possible to live life (safely) during these challenging times.

Our Activities Director regularly calls members to check up on them and

Continued on page 8

Colorado PT continued from page 7

encourage others to do the same. These interactions can be significant in relieving the stress of isolation for some. In fact, our methods of communication with members have increased tenfold since the COVID restrictions.

Currently, our Board is planning a retreat and use this slow activity period wisely to update club policies and a plan for recovery whenever we get to the other side of this pandemic. But overall, focusing on being flexible with varied safe activities and frequent

communication with members has kept our membership renewed and excited and our volunteers active. Thus far, we have gained eight new members, one has rejoined, and all renewals are current! We are 165 members strong! See ya'll in Chattanooga in 2021!



Charlotte Prime Timers Meet for Lunch

Max Carroll, Communications Director, Charlotte Prime Timers



Even though they weren't seated six feet apart, a group of the Charlotte Prime Timers met for lunch and were seated on an open-air patio at Portofino's Restaurant for their first in-person get-together since their March 2020 monthly meeting. It was so good to see everyone in person and to do a lot of catching up. There was a dual meeting in Rock Hill SC where several members from that area met for lunch at Legal Remedy Brewing.



Both photos courtesy of Charlotte Prime Timers



PTCV Funds Scholarship for a Third Time

Gene Hall, Vice President, Prime Timers Central Virginia

In 2016, PTCV received a \$6,000 bequest from the estate of our organizations founder, Woody Baldwin. The Board at that time decided to segregate these funds from operating funds. After some research and much discussion, it was decided to do something **good** with the funds that just dropped in our lap by funding a scholarship that Side by Side was already set up to administer. Reprinted below is this year's recipient, Sylas's application:

"I first joined Side by Side in the summer of 2017, only attending Richmond's Tuesday night LGBTQ+ group. I was scared, quiet, and farther in the closet than I could have ever imagined. Over what has been possibly the most unexpected 3 years of my life, I've grown, learned, and, most importantly, discovered a second home and family at Side by Side. I now attend groups in Richmond at least twice a week for the Tuesday LGBTQ+ group and Youth Leadership Committee meetings, though many times I am around the

center more than that for Trans Group or to just volunteer or hang out.



Photo courtesy of Prime Timers Central Virginia

Side by Side has given me support in my hardest times. Friends and staff gave me their unmatched support when I first came out as transgender. I will never forget the day that, when it came to be my turn to introduce myself at the end of group, I unconsciously blurted out a different name and pronouns than I had earlier in the evening. I was scared, but as I looked up, my friend Alex punched me in the shoulder and grinned, and Emma stood in the door where only I could see her and gave me a thumbs up. I knew then that I would be okay. The

people I cared about most cared about me too, and with their support, I began the process of my transition. Side by Side supplied me with my first binder and countless other resources, and, with that support, I found the courage to come out to my parents.

Since Side by Side has given so much to me the last two years, I made the decision in 2018 that I wanted to give back, and so joined the Youth Leadership Committee. I helped to plan the 2019 Enchanted Forest Alternative Prom as well as the 2020 Western-themed Prom and S.T.A.R.S., the GSA summit, both of which have unfortunately been postponed. I also helped to raise money for Side by Side on Give Out Day 2019 by encouraging friends, family, and teachers to donate. On days where I have some extra free time, I enjoy going to the Richmond youth center both to just hang out and to volunteer my time by organizing the clothes closet, unpacking "Amazon Christmas," and painting

Continued on page 10



Update from Rhode Island

Steve Kagan, President, Rhode Island Prime Timers

Recently, I participated in a couple of Zoom calls with the national/regional leaders and I found that understanding the situation we all face in common very helpful. Some individuals are striking out and sitting around in a park socializing while observing the rules. My impression is that, by and large, most chapters are not having an easy time organizing activities due to Covid-19.

A small percentage of our chapter membership are interested in navigating the

technology, or taking part in teleconferences. Real life is now digitized and in addition to tiring eyes, it produces a degree of weariness.

The venue we traditionally visit for monthly dinners does not utilize an outdoor arrangement, making it difficult to contemplate a return soon.

Our group hopes to locate a spot where we can socially distance outdoors before the cooler Southern New England weather sets in.

PT Central Virginia Scholarship continues from page 9

the "Alumni Tree" in the stairwell.

At school, I participate in multiple honor societies, including Mu Alpha Theta, a math honor society. One of the most important parts of Mu Alpha Theta is working with students at Longdale Elementary School to tutor them. It fosters a positive connection between high school and elementary students, and gives the elementary students a role model and peer to talk to and ask questions. Some weekends, I am able to volunteer at my church's food pantry to distribute food to members in my community in need. I know most of the guests who come to the food pantry by name, and some of them know me by

name as well. It heartens me to know that people in need know that they have a community to come to, even if it's a few volunteers on a Saturday, that loves and supports them. Through Side by Side, I was able to attend Creating Change 2019 and 2020 in order to increase my leadership and advocacy skills. These skills have given me the confidence to work with Side by Side to participate in school trainings and to speak on panels in the community to educate community members and advocate for LGBTQ+ youth in school and community.

Now that my ideas and thoughts have turned towards higher education, I will be attending Kenyon

College in the fall to major in Psychology and achieve a concentration or second major in Women's and Gender Studies. While I am unsure quite where my path will take me after that, I know that I want to help foster a space where youth like me can be themselves, whether that is as a social worker, therapist, or staff member at a youth organization. It is important to me that everyone has a space to have their voice be heard, to safely explore their own identity without judgment or fear, and to have resources that can help them through whatever tough times life may throw at them. I hope to be able to give youth the space I had to discover myself, to live authentically, and to find a family like I found at Side by Side."



TAPT Annual Picnic 2020

John Madigan, Editor, Tulsa Area Prime Timers

TAPT members had fun in the sun at our annual picnic on July 18 2020 with 13 members out to get some hot Oklahoma sun. Our host Chuck provided the pool and A/C. This was TAPT's first big group gathering since the virus kept us at home. We could not get any hugs we all missed. Just being with each other visiting, socializing and camaraderie made the day very special.



Photo courtesy of Tulsa Area Prime Timers

It would not be a Prime Timer event without food. Ribs and chicken went with side dishes brought by each member. No one went home hungry.

Woody (Baldwin) would be proud we got together. Thanks to him for creating this club to make it possible.

Publishing Guidelines for *Prime Times*

Our priorities focus newsletter content on:

1. **Official communication** from Worldwide Officers on administration or topics of interest to all members and leadership.
2. **Chapter highlights** on visits or events from local leaders and Directors-at-Large, edited as space allows, with any spillover content redirected to website or next issue.
3. **Human interest or feature content** submitted by an individual may be published as space available; however no author can publish in two consecutive issues unless content is part of a series.
4. **Public Service Announcements** may be published when regional/ or multi-chapter gathering events are approved by the PTWW Board.

Prime Timers Mid-Missouri Update

Rad Fountain, Webmaster, Prime Timers Mid-Missouri

Prime Timers Mid-Missouri held our first face-to-face meeting of 2020 on July 25 at the Pennicalls youth park shelter house. Twelve members and one guest attended. Before the meeting, a short social hour was held. All stated that it was nice to see other PTMM members in person again.

During the meeting, we discussed whether to try and continue face-to-face or stay with Zoom meetings. A letter from Rainbow House was read thanking PTMM for their \$500 Christmas donation. Tentative plans for the August 22 meeting were discussed.

The meeting closed and all wished PTMM members safe travels and health until our next face-to-face meeting.



The Northern Mockingbird

Les Harris, Member-at-Large, Cross Timbers Prime Timers

The complete article can be found at: <https://theprimetimersww.com/2020/08/29/the-northern-mockingbird/>

Anyone who was raised in Texas and loved the outdoors certainly has seen and heard the Northern Mockingbird. This bird is known for its mimicking ability to sing songs, chirps, and calls of other birds. I believe that much of its ability to sing and mimic other birds is in this bird's genes. The Northern Mockingbird has been recorded singing 38 different sounds. The young mockingbird has never heard many of these sounds from other song birds except for hearing another mockingbird because most of the song birds are in other parts of the continent.



Photo by skeeze on Pixabay

Why do Northern Mockingbirds love to sing so much? The answer is the male mockingbird is the bird that sings most of the time, day or night, while the female

is sitting on the nest hatching the blue and brown spotted eggs. The male bird will land on the highest point he can find in the near vicinity of the nest and then sing to the female, so she knows where he is at all times. While a mockingbird is singing a certain song it will suddenly fly vertical for about five or six feet and then land back on the exact spot it was standing on.

The male and female birds will fly south during the fall if the winter weather is in the snow belt. They will usually make a nest when they return to their home ground and the male has established his territory. They return to the same area each year if the previous year was a success in raising their chicks. They may have an average of four chicks to raise each spring season.

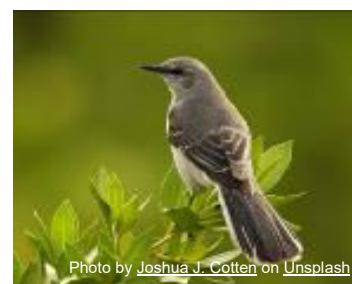


Photo by Joshua J. Cotten on Unsplash

Submit your article at: theprimetimersww.com/newsletter-submission/

Cruise / Land Travel Opportunities *dates subject to change*

The following items on this page are unpaid promotions not directly sponsored by a recognized Prime Timers chapter and are published as a public service announcement of social activities which may interest gay/bi men. Prime Timers Worldwide does not receive any compensation nor proceeds from these activities and in no way assumes any liability for claims, errors, or omissions nor negligence arising from these promotions or activities. Activities may be listed up to 36 months in advance subject to review and approval by the Board of Directors of Prime Timers Worldwide.

Year	Departs	Destination	Contact	Telephone
2021	16-JAN	Southern Caribbean cruise	Ron Camp	614.581.2700
2021	23-JAN	Western Caribbean cruise	Michael Stone	941.359.8212
2021	11-JUN	Key West Celebration of Friends	Tom Pence	954-364-2024
2021	17-JUN	Northern Europe cruise	Ron Camp	614.581.2700