

Board to Zoom, Create Speakers' List, A New Logo, Cut PTWW Dues

The Mid-Term Board Meeting on 17-OCT is strengthening local Chapters operations by enabling several actions for 2021. Here are the highlights from the meeting:

- ♦ **Zoom sessions in mid-to-late JAN 2021 for all chapter leaders.** E-invites will be sent next year.
- ♦ **Annual Chapter dues reduced for 2021.** COVID-19 has halted our in-person Chapter visitation program. Having not incurred those budgeted travel expenses has allowed PTWW to offer reduced dues, so the Board approved a 50% reduction of the \$2/ member rate to \$1/member for 2021 only. Requests for PTWW dues and new Chapter Profiles will be distributed shortly to each local Chapter, with a targeted date of return by 31-JAN 2021.
- ♦ **PTWW Speakers Bureau for local Chapters was approved.** See page 4.
- ♦ **PTWW Logo Refresh Project moves closer to final approval.** Nine designs were reviewed and critiqued, with suggested modifications. A final release is expected by 31-MAR 2021.



Convention Pre-Registration

Now open for Chattanooga 2021

Image by Shameer Pk from Pixabay

theprimetimersww.com/CONVENTN/

Get on the mailing list for the Chattanooga hotel and hospitality updates, planned excursions, and PTWW events schedule.

Staying and Playing Safe During the 2020 Holidays and Pandemic

PTWW Secretary Charles Koehler shares ways to safely navigate your social interactions and holiday gatherings this winter with your family, friends, and fellow Prime Timers.

Check out the recommended CDC link:

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

Since 1987, Prime Timers has provided thousands of gay and bisexual (mostly) older men with opportunities to engage and interact with each other through in-person activities and events. Early in 2020, a global pandemic abruptly changed the ways many Chapters provide those services to members. *Continued page 5.*

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Up-and-Coming PTWW Events

January 2021

4 Regional Zoom Calls for
Chapter Leaders and
1 for Independent Chapter

October 2021

16th Biennial Convention
Chattanooga TN

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Strategy & Future of Prime Timer Chapters *part 2*

This is the second 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/>

Speakers, Zoom and Video Calls

PTWW will establish a 2-tier video program to:

- A. Manage a resource list of credentialed and remote speakers willing to present to **Local Chapter-sized audiences** on a wide range of topics of interest.
- B. Manage a Worldwide presentation periodically to allow **individual** participation with a limited audience using a secure Zoom or webinar application.
- These multi-chapter video events are focused on informative topics, with pre-registration to ensure a quality experience.
- Technical challenges for webinars or similar large-scale online events must be overcome to be cost-effective and establish a credible audience for speakers and programs.



Monthly, Weekly News and Email

- C. The Chapter newsletter may be the only communication one receives. **A simple one-pager** reaffirms the Chapter is sharing ideas with all its members and even more important to those without online connections.
- D. During this pandemic, an **email or phone call** at least monthly provides vital interaction between members. Finding members that “give good phone” and enjoy reaching out is a good choice of this task. Even leaving a message lets one know he is a valued member.

Multi-Chapter Events for Now

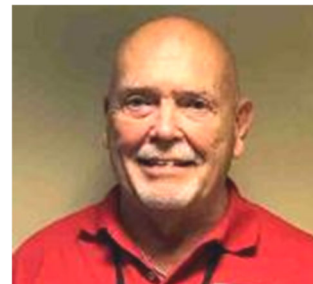
- E. **Online socials** among several Chapters are encouraged to promote awareness about other nearby local Chapters.
 - PTWW encourages all to learn video calling using YouTube, Google, AARP or other instructional or “do it yourself” sites.
 - Get online! Also, PTWW can support local Chapters to start-up Zoom capabilities for meetings.
- F. **In-person gatherings** for 2021 will be impacted by current health conditions, and should comply with federal, state, or local rules respecting social distancing, face coverings, and the size of group attendance.
- G. The next scheduled calls for Regional Leaders will be mid-JAN 2021.

Speakers Bureau for Chapter Resources

Since I last wrote in March about Chapter Care, we have all experienced the massive impact of Covid-19 and the devastation it has brought into our lives. We at PTWW had many Zoom sessions with chapter leadership to discuss how we all deal with keeping our chapters active and supportive of our members. We discovered chapters, like the one I am in, having social get-togethers as well as general monthly meetings that include guest speakers using Zoom, and we see that as a great opportunity for all chapters as we become more knowledgeable about Zoom or other such platforms. We certainly lose by not being in-person at our events but Zoom events do offer a great time to see each other and keep up, as well as a great time to have a guest speaker who can be from anywhere nationally and internationally. My chapter has had four monthly meetings now with a speaker at each. Other chapters are now including speakers and this is a great development to help us as we work to the future of face-to-face meetings.

We at PTWW have developed a simple plan to help chapters coordinate potential speakers for events and that plan/document is called the "PRIME Speakers Bureau". This guide will be available soon as it has received final PTWW Board approval and the first chapter email survey will begin soon. The general idea is to generate a list of potential speakers to go out each year from information provided by all chapter leadership. Having learned much about Zoom, it is exciting that even at future face-to-face gatherings, we can "Zoom in" a guest speaker and video project that speaker so that all can see and even ask questions. I hope that in the future we can offer a test situation of this capability. Here we go again, trying to learn a new trick!

All of our chapter leadership and PTWW leadership is working hard to make our chapters great under difficult conditions. Don't hesitate to contact any of your chapter's members just to let them know you care about them as this helps all of us through this difficult time.



Sam, PTWW Vice President

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. Any self-promoting submittals are subject to Prime Timers Worldwide Board review.
4. **Maximum words per article** should be less than 400 words to be published on a single page. As column space is available, larger articles may have to be continued in the next issue as well as being published in full on the PTWW website with a direct link from the newsletter.
5. **Public Service Announcements** may be published when regional or multi-chapter gatherings are approved by the Board.

Staying and Playing Safe During Pandemics

continued from Page 1

Unfortunately the “typical” Prime Timer likely has five COVID-related risk factors against him that may result in higher COVID-19 complications. Those are his gender, age, health, habits, and sexual orientation.

However, we Prime Timers are resilient men who have survived the previous devastating epidemic: HIV/AIDS. As such, we know how to protect ourselves and others, so we can certainly do three simple but important protective things:

- 1. Wear a Mask**
- 2. Social Distance**
- 3. Wash Your Hands**



Image by Omni Matryx from Pixabay

Protecting yourself also means evaluating your risk level and making temporary changes now. Then we all can survive to enjoy a better tomorrow after these holiday gatherings.

Video, Chat, and Text

Prime Timers can use a smartphone or computer tablet with Zoom or Facetime to easily connect with family and friends without risking their health. Or just text a quick message or make phone calls to let them know YOU are doing well this week.

Playing Safe

Many Prime Timers remain sexually active and the following information can be a real life-saver. Because the virus is transmitted primarily through the air by talking, breathing, coughing, sneezing, singing, shouting, kissing, and close proximity, COVID-19 has changed the rules for safer sex. COVID-19 can also be transmitted by hugging, hand-shaking, genital, oral or anal sex, or even touching your mouth, nose or eyes with any contaminated object, like your hand. Make sure you know the social history of your date.

Read Charles' complete article containing useful safety tips online at:

[“Prime Timers at Higher Risk: Sex and Social Connections During a Pandemic”](#)

Charles Koehler has served on the PTWW Board as Director-at-Large (2013-2015) and currently serves as PTWW Secretary. His experience in health-related education includes coordinating a 3-campus District-wide AIDS Task Force and receiving a 5-year CDC grant for HIV-AIDS education and prevention. He looks forward to having an expanded Zoom-based presentation of this information available to Prime Timer Chapters.

High Sierra Prime Timers: Lighthouse Committee

The High Sierra Prime Timers-Reno chapter created and initiated a Lighthouse Committee last summer as a way to keep in touch with its members periodically throughout the year. The Committee distributes personalized birthday cards and “anniversary” cards to commemorate each member’s anniversary date with the chapter. We also distribute ‘Thank You’ cards to acknowledge contributions to the chapter or recognize a member’s “above and beyond volunteer contributions” to the chapter. There are also cards to recognize new members as well as ‘Thinking of You’ and ‘Get Well’ options.

Additionally, we approach a member each quarter to work with the committee to create a “Member Spotlight” article that is featured in our chapter newsletter. Our first featured member was highlighted in the September edition and we have approached a second member for inclusion in our December issue.

Members seem more than willing to share their life’s stories and personal perspectives.



HSPT-Reno Lighthouse
*Supporting our members
through care and outreach.*

We included money in our Lighthouse budget for board members to visit members who were hospitalized or homebound, to take along a token gift, to show support and let them know they were being thought of during a difficult time. Given the situation with the pandemic, this has all but been fully suspended until a time that is more suitable for one-on-one interactions.

The Committee’s undertakings have been generally well-received by the membership and we are

looking forward to continuing such efforts and finding more innovative ways to reach out and support our membership. In light of the pandemic, this seems to have been a very timely and worthwhile endeavor.

Below are a couple examples of our cards we readily distribute to our members.



Looking for Men Who Like to Play with Yarn

Do you like to play with yarn? Do you like to play with yarn in front of other men who like to play with yarn? If so, this may be of interest to you! A few years ago, the Prime Timers of Phoenix formed a group called *Stitchn N Bitchn*. Chapter members meet together on the first Wednesday of each month to crochet and knit and of course talk, laugh, and have a good time. Due to the pandemic, the group now meets virtually using the Zoom platform.



Recently, our group has expanded to include a Prime Timer from the Pittsburgh area; and we thought: why not invite other chapter members to join us virtually? So, if you are someone who likes to crochet, knit, embroider, and/or do needlepoint work, why not join our virtual *Stitchn N Bitchn* group. If you are interested, contact Dan Riffel at driffel@cox.net.

Huck Fitterer, Vice President, Prime Timers of Phoenix

Update from Connecticut

It has been quite a while since we have been able to meet in any large numbers.

However, we have been meeting in small groups by keeping a safe distance, wearing masks, and

limiting the size of the gatherings.

Members were able to attend an outdoor pool party, picnic-in-the-park, lunch at one of our usual restaurants (both inside and outside) as well as a great walk and lunch in Putnam, CT, all while adhering to the limitations imposed by Phase 2 of the Connecticut reopening rules.

Hopefully, we will be able to go back to our normal meeting times and places



once this crisis is over. In the meantime, we will do as much as we are allowed in Phase 2.

As well as these small meetings, members are invited to attend our Zoom get-togethers

Mondays at 3 pm. The book club and the opera club are meeting via Zoom as well.

Don't let it be said that we are gone; we are just biding our time until we can be fully open to greet each other in person. We look forward to seeing everyone again soon. Keep well and keep safe!

*Roy Moeckel, President
Connecticut Prime Timers*

Help COVID-19 Contact Tracers, Not Scammers

From the FTC (Federal Trade Commission)

Many parts of the US are experiencing a resurgence in COVID-19. Contact tracers, the folks who work for state health departments to try to track anyone who may have been exposed to COVID-19, are an important part of our road to recovery. But some scammers are pretending to be contact tracers so they can profit off of the current confusion. They're trying to steal your identity, your money, or both. Luckily, there are ways to tell the difference between a real contact tracer and a scammer.

A contact tracer might get in touch to discuss results of a test you know you took, or because someone you've been in contact with tested positive. Depending on how your state has set up its program, legitimate contact tracers may call, email, text, or visit your home to collect information.

Contact Tracing Calls – 5 Things You Should Know

A contact tracer from your state health department might call if you've been exposed to COVID-19. But scammers are pretending to be contract tracers too. Here's how you can spot the scam.

- Real contract tracers won't ask you for money. Only scammers insist on payment by gift card, money transfer or cryptocurrency.
- Contact tracing doesn't require your bank account or credit card number. Never share account information with anybody who contacts you asking for such private details.

- Legitimate contract tracer will never ask for your Social Security number. Never give any part of your Social Security number to anyone who contacts you.
- Your immigration status doesn't matter for contract tracing, so real tracers won't ask. If they do, you can bet it's a scam.
- Do not click on a link in a text or email. Doing so can download malware onto your device.

What should you do if you think you're dealing with a fake contact tracer? Check with your state health department to see if they have a way to make sure the person contacting you is a real contact tracer. Otherwise, hang up, close the door, or don't respond to, click on, or download anything that may be in an email or text. Then, report it to your state and tell the FTC about it at [FTC.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint).

Marvin Levin

Vice President/Membership Chair

Chicago Prime Timers



September

Dave T. - Portland
Ed S. - DFW
3-way tie
* Gary W. - DFW
* Brian M. - DFW
* Paul G. - DFW
Huck F. - Phoenix
John Bl. - DFW

October

Rod E. - Portland
John Bl. - DFW
Ralph B. - DFW
2-way tie
* Ed S. - DFW
* John R. - Phoenix
Neil SV. - DFW

Taking Advantage of the Great Weather to Meet in Person



This October, the Huntsville Prime Timers took advantage of the departure of the brutal North Alabama summer to have a couple of 'Bring Your Own Bag and Chair' meetings at one of our local parks. Social distancing practices were observed. While we have had some Zoom meetings and have talked with each other over the phone, it was great catching up with each other for the first face-to-face time since March.

Dave Kwit, President, Huntsville Prime Timers



Both photos courtesy of Dave Kwit

Editor's Note: The views presented in this unedited Letter to the Editor are solely the author's and do not necessarily reflect the views of this newsletter or PTWW.

A Career Dedicated to Those with Special Needs

My intention in writing this article is to bring attention to the dire need for services for students with special needs. As our educational system shrinks with the continuing Pandemic crisis I see a real need for a direction in services with students with special needs. While most students can adapt to online learning and shortened school days, the special needs student will be left behind. We, as a society, need to put our heads together to design a way to work with those unable to catch up.

Beginning in 1973, my career began as a public school teacher in the elementary school level. While starting off teaching sixth grade, I eventually settled into the grade level I felt worked best for my students and myself: fourth grade. My love of Colorado History helped lead me there because 4th grade was the focus of that subject. About ten years later while working on my Master's Degree, I created a 183 day curriculum focusing on Colorado History.

During the 70s, I was close friends with my assistant principal. He was designated Principal of a new school being built and set to open in 1980. I applied and was granted the transfer. I would follow George.

In August, the new staff gathered in the days before students arrived. George made a speech to the staff I will never forget. He stated that he had hand picked a diverse group of faculty members with different lifestyles and various talents. He stated that he would not tolerate any

negative comments from staff members or judgements made against each other. He also stated that we would be servicing special needs students and would have some mainstreamed into our classrooms for subjects throughout the day. We would be designated a 'Center School' and as such would be receiving these students.

I taught there from 1980 until 1996. A new world opened to me: these 'special needs' students were no different than others; their needs and learning styles just needed more individualization. In 1990, on Sabbatical leave, I enrolled in the University of Denver in order to receive my Master's Degree in Special Education and I had to sign up for a 'visit' to a Special Needs school.

One day, one such visit changed my life forever and I bristle as I look back on this. It was a building built in the late 1890's of red brick. It served to 'house' special ed students from age 5 through adulthood. Each hallway and each room brought more horrors. I saw no classrooms and no learning. Each ward consisted of playpens where children lay in vile and unsanitary conditions. The older ones were in isolated playpens making noises and playing with their feces. It all seemed to be a gothic nightmare and unfathomable in the world we lived in then. *continued*



Michael Stone, PTWW Director Emeritus

View this in its entirety online at the link below:

theprimetimersww.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/A-Career-Dedicated-to-Those-with-Special-Needs-1.pdf

Prime Cruising Into Our Future

Michael Sinn is a current PTWW Board member and also a franchise owner of Dream Vacations in Lincoln NE, with over 25 years in the Cruise Business.

The global cruise community is going above and beyond to keep your health and safety the top priority when vacationing.

Many operators are suspending winter sailings, returning to the seas in March 2021 for ship-by-ship destinations and dates. That includes most holiday river cruises in Europe, Asia, & North America.

Cruise lines are continually working with leaders in public safety, biosecurity, epidemiology, hospitality, and maritime operations to update plans for the safe return of cruising. Their recommendations have been adopted by Cruise Lines International Association, now being the first in the travel sector to commit to 100% testing of all passengers and crew worldwide on vessels.

New health and safety measures you can expect include:

- 100% testing of all passengers and crew, and a negative COVID-19 test result mandated before boarding
- Enhanced sanitation and ship ventilation upgrades, with masks in use when social distancing isn't possible
- Additional medical facilities, equipment, and staff on board.

A different – but still fun experience:

While health and safety is the top priority, your cruise experience should still be fun! Cruise lines are also working hard to ensure you can enjoy the same experiences, just in a modified way.



Image by Sven Lachmann from Pixabay

- Reduced capacity on board and inside specific venues (less crowds!)
- Cruise line run shore excursions
- No 3rd-party excursions (limit exposure)
- Served buffets, more cafeteria-style
- Virtual muster drills - no line-ups!

Keep informed about cruising options

Check back with your cruise operator for the latest Coronavirus Updates and Advisories as they become available. Booking details, pricing, and destination ports will be updated as safe travel is your goal.



Photo courtesy of Michael Sinn

Discovering Lost Chapter Contacts and Building New Social Connections

As individual gay and bisexual men are looking beyond this pandemic, several have asked about **new** PTWW Chapters in various parts of the world. Here are updates from various regions:

- **Metro New York City** - Men from Long Island, Westchester, and Manhattan have asked "When will you get another NYC Chapter going?" Local Chapters from Connecticut and North New Jersey are nearby to help get things started.
- **Australia** - Sydney, Melbourne, and Perth Chapters dropped PTWW affiliation years ago. Now, Australians are joining as individual members to reach across North America until COVID-19 travel restrictions are lifted. However, these men can still socialize online with Zoom.
- **Central Texas** - Waco, Temple, and Killeen are hoping to organize in 2021.



Photo by Ruthie on Unsplash

- **Philadelphia** - Southern New Jersey is just across the Ben Franklin Bridge, too.
- **Los Angeles** - A bearish guy at a recent "Celebration of Friends" Koffee Klatch asked what Prime Timers was about as a club. That chapter closed in 2015.
- **Salt Lake City** - A recent inquiry for the Utah Gay Directory identified the Salty Dogs of Utah Chapter, which dropped out of sight in 2007. Currently, 2 groups are running dine-outs for senior gay men.

Recommend a friend residing near the above areas to discreetly contact PTWW for information and possibly forming a new Prime Timers group there in 2021. One can always join the Independent Chapter until a local one gets up and running with activities in summer. Don't sit home alone!

theprimetimersww.com/contact-us-form/

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 and are subject to review and approval by the Board of Directors of Prime Timers Worldwide.

Year	Departs	Destination	Contact	Telephone
2021	23-JAN	<u>Western Caribbean cruise</u>	Michael Stone	941.359.8212
2021	11-JUN	<u>Key West Celebration/Friends</u>	Tom Pence	954-364-2024
2021	17-JUN	<u>Northern Europe cruise</u>	Ron Camp	614.581.2700
2022	16-JAN	<u>Southern Caribbean cruise</u>	Ron Camp	614.581.2700