travels here, there, and soon, everywhere

By Michael Stone, President

Way back in October at the Las Vegas convention, I vowed to spend time this spring visiting many of our chapters. I’ve done that in the past but vowed, this time, to visit and meet even more of our members. I figured the best way to do this would be by car. So, I sat down with my old computer map program and mapped out the route. I then emailed the chapters to see if my timeframe worked with theirs and if they might have members who could host Robert and myself.

Our visit would cover three days in Atlanta, two days in Columbia, SC, two days in Myrtle Beach, SC, and two days in Charlotte, NC. The response...
The Importance of Being an Independent Member

By Jack Nimmo, Vice President - Independents

As Bob Marcus, a Prime Timer and former Chapter Vice President, was peacefully passing away in a hospital room, four Prime Timers maintained a bedside vigil while another Prime Timer was rushing Guy Brainard, Bob’s partner and spouse of 42 years, back to the hospital. When Guy arrived, Bob was gone but his Prime Timer friends were there to support at this moment of sadness.

The chapter continued to support Guy through the months to come. Ultimately, Guy was ready to give back to the chapter by resuming the Chairmanship of the Care and Concern Committee that he and Bob had founded several years earlier. He and his team provide support to those who are ill, dealing with a family death, or other member needs within the chapter. Guy was fortunate to live in San Antonio where there is an active Chapter to provide friendship and support during the challenging times. What about someone in a smaller place like Gatesville, Texas or Warrenton, Missouri where there is no Prime Timers chapter?

Merlin and Charles joined Prime Timers from their smaller communities and are connected to the worldwide organization with membership in the Independent Chapter. The current PTWWW Board is placing emphasis on the Independents with new efforts to communicate and serve the members of this important chapter. The challenge to serve these men is great. Independent Members are scattered over four Canadian

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Woody Baldwin As I Knew Him

By Greg Musquez, San Antonio Prime Timers

Back in the mid 90’s when I was a Prime Timer in Dallas, a group of us would attend Mardi Gras in New Orleans regularly. It was there that I first met Woody and his partner, Sean O’Neill. Mardi Gras was a yearly gathering place for Prime Timers from all over the U.S. Woody and Sean were always there to greet and mix with the group. Woody loved Mardi Gras and always had a good time, even getting on the risqué side wearing costumes. It was all good fun and people liked getting their photo taken with him — gay or straight — especially women.

Later on, when he and Sean moved down to the Austin area, he attended more regularly the events happening in the Texas and surrounding areas such as the OKC yearly gathering. He was always interested in what was going on with the local Prime Timer chapters and gave inspirational talks to the local chapter presidents when they met at those events. He was always requested to give talks at the Worldwide Prime Timers conventions.

I think he particularly liked the San Antonio chapter because he loved attending our 4th of July parties held at Harvey Kendall’s home and the use of the clothing optional swimming pool.

When the San Antonio Prime Timers celebrated its 13th anniversary in October 2005, we invited Woody to our celebration and he willingly accepted. Bruce and I went to Austin to bring Woody to our party. The Crown Plaza Hotel provided us with a room where we set Woody up for the night until we returned the next day after the party to drive him back home. Woody was the Master of Ceremonies and presented certificates of appreciation to several members of our party on behalf of the San Antonio Prime Timers.

In November, 2007, the Austin Prime Timers organized a dinner to honor Woody Baldwin as founder of the Prime Timers Worldwide organization. The theme was “Man With A Vision”. A small contingent of SA Prime Timers attended and had a fun evening.

On March 28, 2010, a celebration for Woody’s 90th birthday was held in Austin by the Austin Prime Timers. A group of SA Prime Timers attended the party and helped with the toasting of Woody’s birthday. A long-time friend of Woody and I, Wayne Patterson from the Palm Springs chapter; and Robert Logan, member of both Austin and SA Prime Timers, gave a great tribute to Woody via a picture slide show.

Woody Baldwin, Prime Timer Founder will be missed! Thank you Woody for all the great things you have achieved as the Prime Timer Founder and the inspiration you gave us to continue your work.
Joe Carlson
Prime Timers Victoria

Continued from the cover

ticed. He quickly estab-
lished himself as a very
convincing fully regaled
Queen Victoria. Perhaps
older Dallas, Texas
members recall Joe as
Queen Victoria in their
Pride event. He showed
up at Pride Palm Springs
one year. Parading in an
open-top car, Queen
Victoria presided at
Vancouver Pride for
several years and al-
ways, rain or shine, at
Victoria BC Pride.

Joe was recognized eve-
rywhere. Between sea-
sonal ‘Royal’ appear-
ances Joe served as Vic-
toria’s Gay barber. He
specialized in a clean
handsome cut with a
little ‘slap and tickle’.

By the time I joined
Prime Timers Victoria
in 1996, Joe had become
Santa Claus at our
Christmas parties. As
you sat on Joe’s knee, he
asked if you had been
‘naughty’ or ‘nice’. We
dutifully answered
‘naughty’ and received
our gift.

I must not forget to
mention that well before
any of us knew him Joe
had been a fashion mod-
el. Joe is already missed.
**Being a Board Member**

*By Gary Payne*

*Vice President of Chapters*

I want to share a few moments of your time to tell you what it is like being a Board Member. It does not matter if you are a Board Member of a chapter or on the Worldwide Board.

Being a Board Member (which is a volunteer job) takes many hours of my time. I ran for the VP of Chapters position on the Worldwide Board because I was asked. I had no real desire to be on the Board as I am president of the Las Vegas Board and that keeps me busy enough.

I backed Michael Stone 100% and wanted to help to keep the Prime Timers as Prime Timers. I believe we are a mature men’s social club and did not want to see that change. I also believe in the PTWW logo and did not want to see that change. I also wanted to see the chapters become 501(c)(3). I wanted to help new chapters being started and help our chapters with any problems they may have.

These are the things I wanted to work on if elected. Many problems came up during the first six months of being on the Board. One major problem was to keep our 501(c)(3) status safe and the Facebook page became an issue. I know many did not like what was proposed but we are obligated to keep our status safe. We were elected to protect our organization and that is what we did.

The Board has to make decisions all of the time and we do our best. Many who protest whatever the Board does should step forward and run for the Board. It seems to be the same people that complain about any decision the Board makes. Some of them are not even Prime Timers.

I care a lot for the Prime Timers, otherwise I would not be on the Board. I have been called names and even had one Prime Timer spit at me. I did not sign up for this kind of treatment. I am not a quitter and will do my best to fulfill my commitment to the Board. Our Board consists of mature men (mostly retired) and should be respected for taking the time to keep Prime Timers thriving.

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**Donations**

*By Michael Stone, President*

*In Loving Memory of Woody Baldwin and our Lost Brothers and Sisters in Orlando*

I’ve just returned from Austin, Texas where I had the honor of celebrating the glorious life of our founder, Woody Baldwin. It was everything Woody would have wanted: a true celebration in the spirit he requested and a meeting of so many wonderful people. I learned so much more about Woody’s colorful life and career.

Since Woody’s passing, I’ve received many e-mails asking how members and chapters can make donations in Woody’s memory. I’ll address that shortly. Since the massacre in Orlando, I have also been asked if members and chapters can make donations to help the families of those who lost their lives at the Pulse nightclub. One has to be careful with donations because the money does not always end up at its target. We’re being careful. I’ve also been asked if Worldwide will be making a donation.

At our recent board meeting, we addressed these two issues and decided to put out this communication as soon as we can. In November of 2007, the past President and then current President of our Minneapolis—St. Paul chapter proposed a fund made up of donations to allow our organization or develop and work to start new chapters. In addition, the fund would support the work needed to support existing chapters. They wrote a letter to existing chapters and donations were made at that time. Over the years, some donations continue to be received. It continues its work with chapters. An article in the upcoming *Prime Times* newsletter will be devoted to the fund.

To forever preserve his name and honor our founder, we named this The Woody Baldwin Chapter Development Fund. The board feels that this fund would be an ideal place for donations. Because of our 501(c)(3) status, the donations are tax deductible.

When you make your donations, please designate “in memory of Woody Baldwin” or “Orlando Massacre Survivors”. Once we have verified a trustworthy organization, a contribution will be made in the name of Prime Timers Worldwide in the amounts designated for Orlando. Any funds not designated will reside along with those designated in memory of Woody Baldwin, for that fund. Donations should be made out to: Prime Timers Worldwide, c/o Terry Kyweriga, Treasurer, 4722 Minnehaha Ave. Minneapolis MN 55406. Thank you for your participation.
Several Board Members attended the Celebration of Life Service for Woody Baldwin. They were Michael Stone, Richard Tobi-son, Jack Nimmo, and myself. There were also several past board members present.

It was well attended and had a very good program. Several of Woody’s friends spoke, including the only living charter member of the Austin Prime Timers. Several people from his poetry club also spoke.

It was clear that Woody and Will Rogers had one thing in common. They never met a person that they didn’t like. Woody had a love for everyone and he loved the Prime Timers that he organized.

He and Sean will be buried at Llano Cemetery in Amarillo, Texas where he was born and raised.

Austin Prime Timers is to be commended for putting such a wonderful Celebration of Life Service together. — A.J.

In the past few hours, I’ve thought about my own encounter with Woody in a private conversation in his retirement apartment in Austin last December. What an honor it was for me to sit in the celebration of his life and understand the connection Woody could make with a complete stranger like me! While strangers, we shared a common bond of being able to grow older in dignity in a society that is beginning to see and respect us for who we truly are. What a blessing it was for me to have friends that encouraged me to join Woody’s society. As I became more and more involved in Prime Timers, I realized the value of the gift he gave gay men.

Michael Stone, President of Prime Timers Worldwide, recalled his many years of friendship as he worked with Woody on the Worldwide Board and watched the organization grow to over 80 chapters with 10,000 or so members. Three other current Worldwide Board members and several other former Board members were there, too. Members from other chapters joined the Austin Prime Timers (his home chapter) to honor him. In his remarks, Michael challenged all of us to keep Woody alive by mentioning him and his gift often. We are his legacy.

As it was in his early childhood where you could see a silo or grain elevator over ten miles away, Woody saw a need for older gay and bisexual men in his vision of Prime Timers. The need still exists because we all get older, slow down, begin to have medical challenges, and remember our youth. But, we need not be alone because of a gift we’ve received. Did he not see you across the miles? Do you not feel or want to feel young at heart? Of course! As Liza Minnelli sang, “What good is sitting alone in your room, come here the music play”. We have the opportunity to reach out and share companionship with others that have received Woody’s gift and legacy - Prime Timers.
— Jack

To view the program for Woody Baldwin’s Celebration of Life service, please visit tinyurl.com/wbprogram

The Lifetime Achievement Award To Woody & Sean

Where are the words that can possibly explain the gratitude that we have for the Lifetime Achievement Award that Sean and I received in Orlando. We’re still trying to assure each other that it happened and was not a wonderful dream. Are we biased or is it the most beautiful plaque we’ve every seen? It is so nice and occupies a prominent place in our living room. We’re so proud and flattered.

I want to thank you for recognizing Sean’s considerable contributions in the development of Prime Timers. The old squeaky wheel cliché is never more true than in our case. I am the squeaky wheel and Sean is the quiet one. I, therefore, have been recognized a few times for my efforts in developing a Prime Timers, but you are the first to realize that Sean played such an important part. Without his unswerving loyalty and support, I could never have done it. He is the one who applies the brakes when I move too fast or in the wrong direction. He is so deserving and so grateful for the recognition.

All the best. Much hugs, Woody Baldwin/Austin.
— Excerpt from Chiron Rising, issue 80
The Importance of Being an Independent Member

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Provinces, 22 states in the USA, and The Netherlands. Bowling events, lunches out, or general meetings are, of course, not possible. What can we offer? Charles is fortunate. Our newest Prime Timers chapter just formed forty miles away from Warrenton in Columbia, Missouri. How do we support Merlin in a town a good distance from Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston, Austin, or San Antonio?

Our first step is to provide contact information and listings of the interests of all the Independent Members to them, in hopes they may reach out to each other across the miles. The PTWWW Board has a position devoted to this group of diversely located Prime Timers. Direct communication is being established. As a result, we are getting back information that had been missed. For instance, Woody Baldwin and his partner, Sean, would travel frequently to the San Francisco area where they stayed in the home of Lowell Kimble and Mason Cartmell – Prime Timer friends and Independent Chapter members. In my recent validation of the Independent Member database, I discovered from Lowell that Mason had passed away on December 15th, leaving Lowell with the memories of 41 years together. Improving our communication with our Independents will give us more timely notification of losses or other important information that chapter members have. We will work on that in the next year and beyond.

Is your chapter meeting the support needs of the men in your chapter? If not, consider a Care and Concern team or other form of support. Do you know a potential Prime Timer that is located in an isolated place that may not have companionship and support? Recommend him to the Prime Timers Independent Chapter. It is an easy way to connect with men in similar circumstances and identify potential travel or event opportunities. Prospective members will find a way to feel less isolated for a very small investment in annual dues. There are millions of potential Prime Timers around the world that would be most welcomed in the Independent Chapter of Prime Timers Worldwide. Go to the Prime Timers Worldwide website at www.primetimersww.com, then click the Membership tab or contact me directly at VPindependents@primetimersww.com

Travels Here, There, and Soon, Everywhere

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Pineapple. In the short time there, we felt included in the Columbia GLBTQ community and consider Brian and HB great friends. After a nice breakfast together, we departed the next morning. These two hard working men were able to start a great chapter in a place I was unable to do so in past years. The pineapple resides happily in my living room and acts as a reminder of this wonderful visit and new friends.

Our next stop was Myrtle Beach, SC and our hosts were Roy and Don. Again, they made their home our home. It was wonderful hearing about the progress of this chapter. I worked with the founders to start the chapter over nine years ago. We dined at a fine seafood restaurant with board members that night. The food was every bit as good as the ocean view, but the camaraderie and great conversations topped all.

The next day was spent with our hosts seeing how much the area had grown. We spent a number of hours visiting the gorgeous grounds of Brookgreen Gardens and lunching in the cool, clean air. Both Robert and I are plant lovers so this turned out to be a perfect place for us. That night, we dined at a banquet dinner in a country club with chapter members. I had the opportunity to speak to the group, answer questions, and present their charter to President Charles. He was newly elected and is full of energy, drive, and a great man to have at the head of this wonderful chapter.

We next made our way to our final stop, Charlotte, NC and our last host, Hank. He welcomed us into his lovely home. I had visited this chapter many years before. There was a large turnout of members for dinner and it was wonderful seeing so many people we knew and meeting new ones and putting faces to names. The private room that had arranged afforded us a great opportunity for speaking with members and answering questions.

After a sound night’s sleep, we joined their President, Sam, and some of the members downtown for a stroll. We then visited a great museum and, for Robert, a terrific gift shop. Our hosts showed us around the many beautiful and interesting neighborhoods of Charlotte. We lunched at an eclectic and tasty restaurant before heeding out for a bit more sightseeing. That night, we walked to a nearby restaurant to dine and visit with board members. At last, this experience had come to an end.

It’s difficult to convey how valuable these visits are; in the time spent exchanging ideas with members and spending time in their world, I am able to understand the workings of these chapters. In turn, their questions allow me to share and help them understand and gain knowledge and strategies I have picked up from other chapters. Sharing successes and failures leads to better understanding. We can talk on the phone or by email but there’s nothing like face-to-face visits. Conventions and gatherings are also great places to exchange information, but they often occur under more crowded surroundings.

We broke up the drive back to Sarasota with a one-night stop at a hotel. I’m still living in the afterglow of these visits and the paths of communications they’ve opened up. In the next issue, I’ll share my next ‘set’ of chapter visits for May and June, all done by air, after spending a two-week period at home resting up.