

COLORADO PRIME TIMES

**SERVING THE DENVER GAY COMMUNITY
FOR 33 YEARS**



Colorado Prime Timer Member,

I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to Spring, give you a Denver chapter update and provide you with the latest developments at Prime Timers Worldwide (PTWW).

Spring beckons us outdoors to plant, visit friends and family and start increased activities, but it's a different world! COVID-19 has altered how we conduct our daily routines. By now, we have accustomed ourselves to the "new norm" and are now more vigilant and cautious in keeping our loved ones and us safe.

Governor Polis lifted *some* of the rules regarding crowd gatherings. It's *recommended* that "high-risk" folks stay at home, though. Exceptions being for trips to grocery shop, exercise, or needing medical services. Maintaining social distancing and the use of face masks is a must.

Prime Timers Worldwide still advise all chapters to continue to postpone or cancel group activities, until social distancing guidelines are consistent state-by-state. In Denver, we have already been doing that since March. The effort is paying off, but we are a long way from returning to the pre-pandemic norm!

As you may already know, we have lost one of our CPT members to COVID-19, *Ted Ruskin*. We will miss

him and our heartfelt condolences go to his family and friends. A memorial will be held in his honor once we can return to our regular or moderated activities to convene as a group.

In the meantime, we have been holding our **CPT Members-Only Virtual Happy Hour, every Wednesday, at 2 pm**. An email is sent to all members in advance with the information needed to join the fun via ZOOM, the video conferencing app. If you have not received emails regarding the happy hour, please contact us.

Your Colorado Prime Timers Board of Directors continues with the day-to-day administrative duties of the Chapter and now conducts all board meetings via ZOOM. Please see the "BOARD REPORT" for more information. I hope all is well, and please continue to stay safe.

Rafael DeJesus,
President, Colorado Prime Timers

COVID-19 SCAMS

Information compiled by Tone Ellis de Jesus

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recently reported that scams related to coronavirus (COVID-19) had cost Americans \$13.4 million so far this year. Robocalls are way down overall, but complaints about scammers using the pandemic to get your private information have increased.

The following information is not exhaustive but tends to be the most reported types of coronavirus-related phone calls, emails, and text scams.

1. Offers for a COVID-19 vaccine or treatment using blood/saliva from survivors; charity and donation scams

These scammers impersonate health organizations and businesses to sell fake test kits, supplies, vaccines, or cures. As a community that lived and survived through the brunt of the HIV/AIDS global pandemic, we are not even the slightest bit hesitant to know these are "snake oil" claims.

It's impossible to develop vaccines and treatments overnight, and the ingestion of anyone's bodily fluids is potentially toxic. Also, you should only trust your doctor with personal medical information or advice on FDA approved, COVID home tests. So, for us, these types of impostor scams can easily be ignored or given a hard pass.

However, according to the FTC, imposter scams are the more frequent type of fraud, with the top complaints relating to travel and vacations, online shopping, and bogus text messages. For example, websites that promise scarce cleaning products or masks. So please stay vigilant.

Also, charities and individuals seeking COVID-19 relief donations on crowdfunding websites have increased. While websites like GoFundMe usually provide much-needed assistance for legitimate causes, researching before donating is recommended. And, as always, be wary of any business, charity, or individual requesting payments or donations in cash, by wire transfer, gift card, or through the mail.

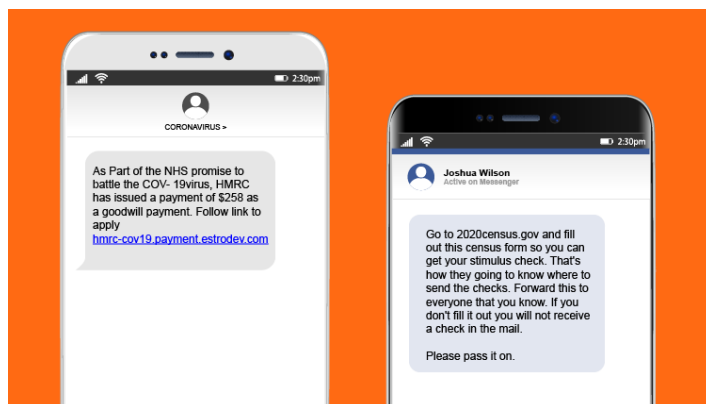
2. Stimulus check or economic relief scams

Another reason why crooks impersonate organizations and businesses is to acquire your personal and financial information. These kinds of tricks are called "phishing scams" and made to fish for your account login or bank card information. But now, many are using COVID-related benefits like stimulus checks or other economic relief to scam the public.

For example, you might get a call from a person claiming to be from the IRS, saying that you are required to pay a fee before receiving a stimulus payment, and asks for your credit/debit card number.

Overall, the leading type of identity theft is credit card fraud, not only in Colorado but nationwide. So, if the communication seems to be from a business entity that you extensively use, do not respond to the email, text, or phone call. Instead, contact the business directly using their publicly listed information on the company's official website.

Other ways to protect your private information is to use the latest security software on your computers



and mobile devices, plus keep your web browser and operating system updated.

Do not click on links, open any email attachments, or click on website pop-up screens from sources you are not familiar with, especially those that reference COVID-19. Change your passwords periodically and NEVER give this information, your account number, or PIN to anyone.

If you encounter a scam, inform other chapter members and folks in your community so they can protect themselves. If the scam is impersonating a well-known entity or business, contact that business and make them aware. To help folks on a larger scale, the FTC provides a quick link on their website to report a COVID-related fraud: www.ftc.gov

Sources: Federal Trade Commission; American Bankers Association; Photo: Webroot

BOARD REPORT

During March 4, 2020, Board meeting, it was voted and approved to change Chef Charles McDonald and Larry Gallegos' official titles to Activities Director and Special Projects Director, respectively. The bylaws were updated to reflect this change along with corrections to various articles and to remove typos.

The following week (March 13) an emergency vote was held to cancel all activities due to COVID-19.

CPT Membership Director, Larry Jeffries, resigned from the Board at the start of April 2020. Our Board Secretary, Toby Davis, has taken on these responsibilities until we find a candidate.

Thank you, Larry, for an outstanding job supporting our Chapter over the years with excellent detail and dedication to membership services!

We're making the Membership Director's responsibilities more accommodating for someone's time. One example is to make membership renewals possible through PayPal. Please see "MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS" for more information. Should you be interested in this position, please contact Toby.

Special Projects Director, Larry Gallegos, is still working on projects that include youth outreach, volunteer appreciation, and community partnerships. He has also spoken to one guest speaker who will present at a future gathering—more information regarding these in upcoming newsletters.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Chef Charles Mc Donald – Activities Director

Over-Easy Breakfast, Night on the Town, "Hand, Knee & Foot" games, Coffee Time, Beer Busts at the Trade and Denver Sweet, and our weekly luncheon at the Golden Corral will remain canceled until further notice. Also canceled is our annual Summer Picnic, but the annual Christmas Gala at Maggiano's is TBD.

Denver and Aurora Pride Fests canceled their 2020 events. However, Denver will have a "Virtual Pride Fest" during the Father's Day Weekend!

Currently, we are holding the **CPT Members-Only Virtual Happy Hour, every Wednesday, at 2 pm via ZOOM, the video conferencing app.** If you have not received emails regarding the happy hour, please contact us.

If you have any questions about events and activities, please feel free to contact me.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Exciting news! In June, we will start offering the option for you to pay your CPT membership dues online, via PayPal. Look for an email from Toby explaining this new process. Thank you, Toby, Larry N, and Tone for aggressively working this project. All Birthday wishes will be sent via email as well.



BOARD DIRECTORS

President – Rafael DeJesus
Vice President – Tone Ellis de Jesus
Secretary – Toby Davis
Treasurer – Larry Nelson
Memberships (Volunteer Needed)
Activities – Chef Charles McDonald
Special Projects – Larry Gallegos

COORDINATORS

Activities Coordinator - Joe Saman
Tour Guides (Volunteers Needed)
Theater - Rick Knoll
Over-Easy Breakfast - Darrel Freeland
Game Night (Volunteers Needed)
Hand, Knee, Foot Cards - Ken Krout
Night On The Town - Charles McDonald
Sip N' Sup - Various
Reporter-At-Large - Jim Mickel

NEWSLETTER

Editor - Tone Ellis de Jesus
Proofing - Ron Hurd
Reporter-At-Large - Jim Mickel
* More volunteers needed

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ABOUT

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