

Rhode Island Prime Timers

Chapter 69 of the Prime Timers Worldwide



CONSTITUTION OF THE Rhode Island Prime Timers Chapter 69

ARTICLE I – NAME AND ASSOCIATION

- Section 1:** The name of the organization shall be the Rhode Island Prime Timers. Here after referred to as RI Prime Timers.
- Section 2:** RI Prime Timers will be established and operate under the rules set forth in the Prime Timers Worldwide By-Laws in Article I on Chapters and as one of the federation of cooperating chapters throughout the United States of America and other Countries.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVE AND PURPOSE

The object and purpose of Rhode Island Prime Timers shall be as follows:

- Section 1:** To promote cultural, brotherhood, educational and social union among mature gay and bisexual men and their friends throughout the Rhode Island and other New England areas.
- Section 2:** To promote the cultural activities that enhances the experience of our members
- Section 3:** To engage in all good works pertaining to the educational, social, and brotherhood among both the LGBT and straight society.
- Section 4:** To provide accurate information to the public concerning the needs of the mature gay and bisexual in our current world.
- Section 5:** To work with the National Office of Prime Timers Worldwide for the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to the needs of the mature gay and bisexual men and their friends and supporters.
- Section 6:** To recognize all people as brothers and sisters as equal partners in our world.

Section 7: To provide a forum for involvement and focus on improving the image and quality of gay life through activities of volunteerism, politics, gay issues, arts, sports, and entertainment.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1:**
- (A) Active Members shall be:
 - (1) A dues paid member.
 - (2) The membership shall be broken down to the following categories:
 - (i) SINGLE MEMBERSHIP
 - (ii) MARRIED COUPLE MEMBERSHIP
 - (B) Associate Members shall be:
 - (1) Any one who signs up as a supporter of the ideals of the State and National society.
 - (2) This category will be classified as
NON-MEMBER - receiving the Local Newsletter and invited to participate as a non-voting member.
 - (C) Honorary Member shall be
Those persons whom the Board has felt have been an outstanding supporter of the gay and bisexual needs.
 - (D) Posthumous Eternal Member shall be
A President who has died in office and who while in office performed over and above his duties as President. Must receive a majority vote when presented to membership.

Section 2: The right to vote and to hold office will be limited to Active Members only

Section 3: The dues shall be based on three categories: Single or Married and Associates. The dues and the criteria for payments for all the different categories shall be established by the Board of RI Prime Timers.

- (A) Single dues are paid annually to the Treasurer of RI Prime Timers
- (B) Married couple's dues are paid annually to the Treasurer of RI Prime Timers
- (C) Associates dues are paid annually to cover the cost of the News letter and flyers.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Section 1: The governing body of RI Prime Timers shall consist of the following:

- (A) **Officers:**
 - i. President
 - ii. Vice-President
 - iii. Secretary
 - iv. Treasurer
- (B) **Board Members:**

Will consist of five Directors-At Large

(D) Staff:

Will consist of person(s) appointed as required by the governing body.

(E) Immediate Past President

- Section 2:** All officers, except the immediate Past President and appointed staff, shall be elected by ballot Bi-Annually at the July meeting to take office the following month after election.
- Section 3:** There are no set limits on the number of terms an officer may hold their office.
- Section 4:** Board members will be elected by ballot, were as only two senior Board members will be up for election during each election cycle. The remaining three will move up in seniority as the two new ones are add to the bottom of the list. This is to keep continuity in the governing process.
- Section 5:** The Officers and Board Members shall have control of the policies and day to day business affairs of RI Prime Timers.
- Section 6:** At least 2/3rds of the Officers and Board Members need to be present to conduct business for the organization.
- Section 7:** Any Officer or Board Member may be terminated for just cause by an unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Board or by a no confidence vote of 2/3rds + 1 of the Active members of RI Prime Timers.
- Section 8:** In the event of a vacancy occurring in an elective office of the Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, Board member, the governing body shall fill the position immediately by appointment or by election by the membership until the next general election. The office of the President shall be filled by the Vice President in case of vacancy. Retain ballots and post results within 30 days.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

- Section 1:** The full membership of RI Prime Timers will have at least 5 meetings a year or one every other month. The election cycle and general meeting will be in July.
- Section 2:** The Officers and Board Members will hold 5 meetings a year on the alternating months from the general meetings. These meetings will be open to all members unless other wise specified that it is a closed meeting.
- Section 3:** The Officers and Board Members and the Active Members will vote on who will be the delegate and alternate to attend the Inter-National Prime Timers Worldwide meeting(s) to represent RI Prime Timers and to partake and as the designated voting member to that body for RI Prime Timers.

ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS

- Section 1:** The Constitution of RI Prime Timers may be amended at the general July meeting by a 2/3rds vote of the active members present.
- Section 2:** Amendments must be submitted to the Secretary at least ninety (90) days prior to the general July meeting.

ARTICLE VII – DISSOLUTION

- Section 1:** Upon a vote by the members for dissolution or determination of existing active members to dissolve, RI Prime Timers shall donate its net assets to such organization it deems appropriate. Such organizations should be involved with LGBT cultural, religious, charitable, or educational systems and these entities are exempt from taxation under Section 501 C (3) and/or C 7of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, of the United States of America. Selection of the recipients will be determined by the remaining active members of RI Prime Timers.
- Section 2:** Upon RI Prime Timers dissolution, only those donees which qualify under the regulations of the local and national government will be considered as recipients of its funds or assets.

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BY-LAWS OF THE RI PRIME TIMERS Chapter 69

ARTICLE I – OFFICERS DUTIES

- Section 1:** The **President** shall preside at all meetings of RI Prime Timers, appoint special committees, act as ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nomination committee, be the active representative to the Public, National Prime Timers Worldwide and other groups as needed, and authorize the use of the Chapter logo in printed matter and publications.
- Section 2:** The **Vice President** shall preside in the absence of the President at all meetings of RI Prime Timers; performs duties assigned by the President or Board, receive all reports and minutes of meetings and ensure that the Secretary has distributed those minutes in a timely manner. The Vice President shall also be involved as chair to the Public relations committee.
- Section 3:** The **Secretary** shall keep the records of RI Prime Timers and the official minutes of all meetings and copies of all official correspondence and notes on policies and procedures. The secretary in the absence of both the President and Vice President shall call the meeting to order and preside until a temporary chairperson is chosen to run the meeting. The Secretary shall send out notices for all meetings, unless other wise specified, conduct correspondence for the RI Prime Timers, unless other wise directed, submit a report of the proceedings of the business meeting of the Governing Board, and provide any required correspondence to Prime Timers Worldwide, co-signed by the President, to list the official delegates and alternates to the Prime Timers Worldwide conference
- Section 4:** The **Treasurer** shall receive and disburse all funds of RI Prime Timers, have custody of any deeds, rental agreements or other property belonging to RI Prime Timers, collect membership dues; prepare bi-monthly financial reports for the Governing Board and

Membership. Arrange for audits by the board members assigned as trustees, issue membership cards and chair any committee appointed dealing with the financial nature of RI Prime Timers.

Section 5: The **five Board Members** shall act as advisors to the Officers and assist in the operations of RI Prime Timers. They shall also act as auditors for the review of the financial records of the Treasurer and three (3) of five (5) must review books of treasurer when requested and chair appointed committees for the advancement of RI Prime Timers and the community it servers.

Section 6: The **Appointed Staff** shall be the person, who help coordinate, advises, animates and encourages the interaction and growth of the Members. This includes developing with the President educational and cultural programs to enhance the gay perspective on living an active life and to assist in networking with other people and organizations.

Section 7: The **Immediate Past President** will act as an advisor and to assist the Governing Board in its duties. The Past President may also be appointed as the Parliamentarian for RI Prime Timers and its meetings.

Section 8: All the above listed Governing positions must be an active member of RI Prime Timers and can only run for office if they have been an active member for a minimum of 12 consecutive months.

Section 9: All officers and Board members must be elected from the general membership at an appropriately designated and advertised meeting

ARTICLE II – APPOINTED OFFICES

Section 1: All appointed officers or chairpersons shall be subject to the instructions from the Governing Board and the President. They shall make their reports and recommendations directly to the Governing Board with out dissemination to the general membership until the Governing Board approves.

Section 2: The Governing Board will authorize the Treasurer to reimburse appointed officers and chairpersons as needed and with appropriate documentation provided by the appointee.

ARTICLE III – OTHER COMMITTEES

Section 1: At least one month prior to the election cycle the Governing Board will appoint a Nomination Committee to arrange the election and ensure all potential nominees are provide a chance to run for office.

Section 2: The Nominations Committee will also ensure that any nominee for office meets the Active Membership criteria to run for that office.

Section 3: The Nominating Committee will run the election, count the ballots and verify the winners of each race. They shall decide amongst themselves who will be Chair of the Committee.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP DUES

Section 1: All membership dues shall be set at a rate that ensures at least the minimum dues cover the required amount for Inter-National Prime Timers Worldwide for each membership type. The established rate above that will be determined by the Board and approved by the Active Members at the Annual Meeting in July to begin January 1st next.

Section 2: All annual membership dues will be paid to the Treasurer and then that part that covers the Inter-National dues will then be forwarded to Prime Timers Worldwide Treasurer.

Section 3: Associate Non-Membership fees will be paid directly to RI Prime Timers Treasurer and will be considered non-refundable.

Section 4: Failure to pay or complete payment of dues shall result in the exclusion on the member's name from the membership list sixty (60) days after expiration of the membership (September). The Treasurer will notify the President of said failure to pay and notification will then be sent to Prime Timers Worldwide for action to be taken as necessary.

ARTICLE V – GOVERNING BOARD EXPENSES

Section 1: An Officer or Board member that performs an approved service that incurs expenses will be reimbursed upon turning over receipts of those incurred expenses to the Treasurer.

Section 2: A person that is appointed as a delegate to the National Meetings or other meetings to represent RI Prime Timers will have their room and travel expenses covered as a pre-approved vote of the Governing Board of RI Prime Timers.

Section 3: Compensation will be paid to anyone performing special services under the direction of the President or the Governing Board as needed.

Section 4: The President will be able at his/her discretion to spend up to \$100.00 for operational expenses as needed with out approval of the Governing Board or the Active Members.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

Section 1: In pursuant to Article V Meetings in the Constitution, Section 1, General meetings will be scheduled by the President with the approval of the Board and the dates disseminated to

the membership on an annual bases beginning no later than July 15th for the up coming year.

- Section 2:** In pursuant to Article V Meeting in the Constitution, Section 2, meetings of the Board will be scheduled by the President with approval of the Board and the dates disseminated to the membership on an annual bases beginning no later than July 15th for the up coming year.
- Section 3:** The President or a Board Member may call a special meeting as need upon notification to the Secretary and provide at least 30 days for notification to be sent out to all Active members to attend.
- Section 4:** Emergency meetings may be called by any Board member and notification must be made to all of the Governing Board and those Active Members that can be contacted of said need to have an emergency meeting.
- Section 5:** All Active members are encouraged to attend all scheduled general meetings and Board meetings.
- Section 6:** For business to be transacted at any General Meeting there must be at least ¼ of all Active members present to form a quorum.
- Section 7:** For business to be transacted at any Board Meeting there must be a minimum of 2/3rds of Board Members present to form a quorum.

ARTICLE VII – ORDER OF BUSINESS

- Section 1:** The following shall be the order of business for General Meetings:
- (a) Call to Order
 - (i) Starting Time
 - (ii) Official count of Active Members
 - (b) Acceptance of Agenda/Additions
 - (c) Introduction of New Members & Guests
 - (d) Reading and Approval of Minutes
 - (i) General Meetings
 - (ii) Board Meetings
 - (e) Reports of Officers
 - (f) Reports of Committee
 - (i) Past Affairs
 - (ii) Coming Affairs

- (g) Communications Update
 - (i) Letters
 - (ii) Bills
- (h) Break Time
- (i) Unfinished Business
- (j) New Business
- (k) Elections
 - (i) Nominating Committee
 - (ii) Balloting process
- (l) Oath of Office (July General Meeting)
- (m) Announcements
- (n) Next Meetings
- (o) Adjournment

ARTICLE VIII – MISCELLANY

Section 1: The RI Prime Timers shall be given credit for any program operated under its auspices, even though funds are donated by other organizations.

Section 2: Liability of RI Prime Timers will be limited and shall not be liable for any accident, resulting in any injury or death to any persons participating in RI Prime Timers affairs or events. All registrants participate at their own risk. Add this important note to membership application.