



2017 Year in Review

*'Twas the week before Christmas
And all through the year,
Not a moment went by
Without challenge or cheer.*

*A massive new update
for second-floor space,
With glass-enclosed conference rooms
now all in place.*

*A new gallery of artwork
adorns all the walls,
Collaborative work space
cropped up in the halls.*

*With Health Week a triumph,
events hit their stride,
with food trucks all summer
parked just outside.*

*A picnic on pavement
saw team-building soar.
We painted on windows,
raced tag-team, and more...*

*Days off that were bonus
to chill and unwind,
"Take Twos" 'ere each holiday
were so well-timed.*

*Celebrations and down-time
took their rightful place,
but we took time, as well,
for giving and grace.*

*Innovation flourished,
ideas so bold.
They continue to grow,
as new programs unfold.*

*Come Aptify, come EDGE,
The Academy took flight,
as visions of what's next
were plainly in sight.*

*And so, at year's closing,
we dine in good cheer.
With that, a look back
on a very full year.*

2017 Year in Review

Once again, celebrations and team events punctuated serious business in 2017. Along with wellness offerings, opportunities to give back and opportunities to kick back, it was a very full year. Herewith are just some of the highlights...

A year of giving

The generosity of MDRT staff was front-and-center once again through hurricane relief efforts, “MDRT Gives Day,” Jeans Week fundraisers, a Thanksgiving food drive, a coat drive and year-end quilt-making.

Hurricane relief

The MDRT Foundation quarterbacked fundraising on behalf of hurricane victims and their communities in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

“MDRT Gives Day” and “Cookies for a Cause”

The MDRT Foundation’s inaugural “MDRT Gives Day” on November 8 was marked by gratitude for the MDRT community’s enthusiastic participation. The one-day, online fundraising event, which united the MDRT community and financial services industry in supporting the MDRT Foundation’s global grant programs, was capped by a Foundation-sponsored “Cookies for a Cause” for staff. Engaging 474 donors in 32 countries, the effort raised \$143,724.



Thanksgiving food drive, Project Shoebox, blanket project and coat drive

It didn’t stop there. MDRT staff took on three major projects on behalf of Park Ridge-based



Avenues of Independence, which provides homes, jobs and community living programs for Chicago-area adults with physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities.

First, employees contributed non-perishables and household items for MDRT’s annual *Thanksgiving Food Drive*.

During the more than three-week run of **Project Shoebox**, staff filled brightly wrapped boxes with desperately needed every-day items.



Project Shoebox contributions began to overflow by mid-month

MDRT's year-end **blanket-making challenge** inspired the handiwork of ad hoc teams, who created 71 handcrafted pieces earmarked for each Avenues to Independence resident.



Right: Emily Diana and Miranda Knight display a finished blanket for residents of Avenues to Independence



... while Sue Felix (left), Tammy Chan and Yuna Kim add finishing touches to a work-in-progress

Coat drive



Through the generosity of the MDRT family, adult and kid-sized new and gently used coats will benefit *Destined for Greatness, Inc.*

And then there were Jeans Weeks...



As part of the quarterly week-long fundraisers, staffers opted to wear jeans to work in exchange for \$5 per day donations to each selected charity. MDRT and the MDRT Foundation matched all staff donations during the week. Each recipient organization was recommended by an MDRT employee.

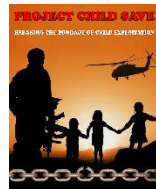
Power Packs -- March 27-31. On Project Coordinator **Julianna Chaparro's** recommendation,



MDRT's first Jeans Week fundraiser of the year targeted Power Packs, which assembles and provides backpacks filled with toiletries and personal items for children who enter shelters without the comforts of home and with few possessions they can call their own.



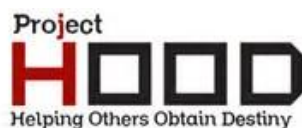
Project Child Save -- September 18-22. Endorsed by Human Resources Director **Laura Good**, this non-profit charitable organization of ex-Marines, Navy Seals and Special Ops military locates and rescues children who have been taken from their homes and sold into sex trafficking.



The Night Ministry -- November 13-17. The Night Ministry -- which provides housing, health care and human connection to members of our community struggling with poverty or homelessness -- was suggested by Programs Manager **Barb Schell**.



Project HOOD (Helping Others Obtain Destiny) -- December 11-15. Programs and Services Assistant **Suzanne Henn** identified Project HOOD as the final Jeans Week recipient of 2017.



The organization equips youth, adults and families with the guidance, skills, tools and experiences they need to become peacemakers, problem solvers, leaders and entrepreneurs in their communities, and successful, healthy and upwardly mobile members of society.

Summer of '17:

Food trucks, viewing of the solar eclipse and Picnic on the Pavement

The MDRT parking lot was the site of a lot more than cars this summer:

First, food trucks...

“The Slide Ride” -- June 27

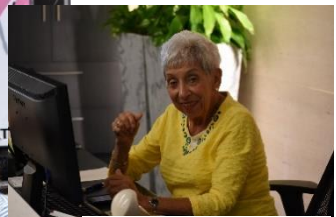
Taking full advantage of perfect weather and the company of co-workers, staffers enjoyed the first of three food trucks this summer.



Meredith Mangas (left) and Karen Matts



Left: Terri Armstrong and Maureen Gallagher snag some prime seating



Jo Rizzuto



Miranda Knight (left), Emily Diana and Don Noverini



From left: Mary Ellen Klatt, Griselda Verdin, Joanne Consiglio and Terri Rybka

Coffee and Donut Truck -- On July 18, Food Truck #2 pulled into the lot with the arrival of coffee, donuts and, of course, socializing.



Jennifer Toribio (photo above), Steve Faulhaber, Pat Paul and Charmaine Recendez



Erin Leyden (left) and Caryn Henning

... and Don Noverini

While, on July 31, the **Taco Truck** -- MDRT's third parking lot food truck of Summer 2017 -- sported a Latin twist.



Karen Matts (center) gives a "thumbs up" (two of them, actually) to taco truck fare. Matt Pais and Meredith Mangas appear to agree

Right: Terri Armstrong (left and Michele Stauff



Jo Rizzuto, Jeanne Malone and Linda Reamer place their orders



A bonus **Ice Cream Truck** made an appearance on August 11. Good Humor, no less, held court for some eager sampling by staffers for the final scheduled food truck of the Summer 2017 season.



Linda Reamer and Gina Fadin



Jeff Jones



Lena Polishuk, Mofya Kobwe and Lena Bykhovsky



Rob and Kristin Mikrut



Tim Sieck, Laurie Romanazzi and Yuna Kim wait patiently



But wait... there's more:

The 2018 Annual Meeting kick-off launched with a lunch-time food truck on October 3 from El Jefe.

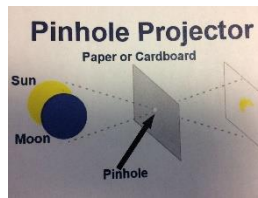
Tim Sieck (photo at right), Mike DePilla and Matt Pais



Solar eclipse viewing - August 21



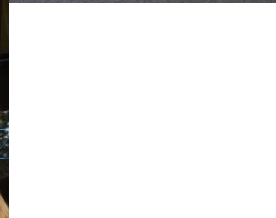
Donning specially made glasses and armed with HR-furnished instructions and supplies to create pinhole projectors, MDRT staffers headed outdoors for a first-hand viewing of this rare phenomenon.





Picnic on the Pavement - August 23

Team-building contests, games and, of course, a catered lunch highlighted this year's outdoor event.





Wedding and baby showers

We surprised parents-to-be and a new groom with gifts, well-wishes and plenty of advice:

Emily Diana's baby shower - June 29



Mofya Kabwe's wedding shower - July 26



Matt Pais' baby shower - October 10

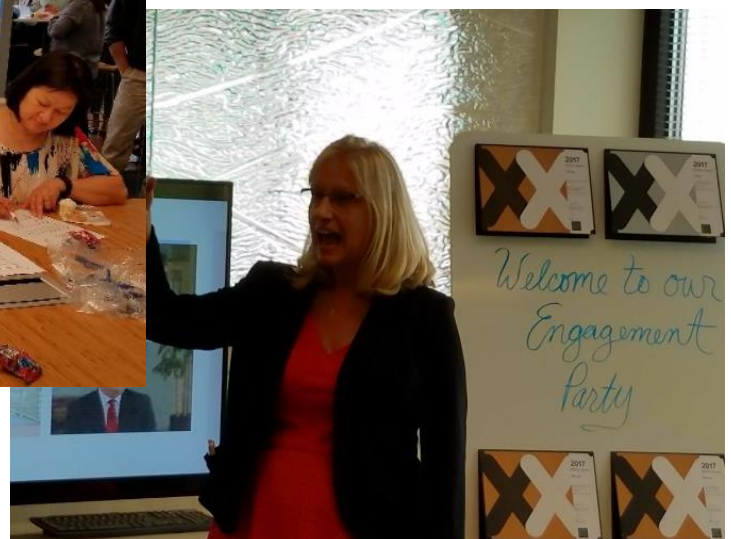
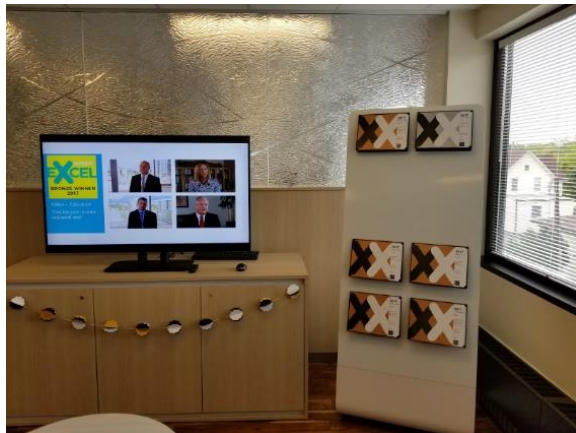


Department events

Accounting Day - May 22. MDRT's accounting and finance professionals marked Accounting Day 2017 with contests, refreshments and an all-around festive twist.



Strategic Engagement party - July 20. Sponsored by -- who else? -- Strategic Engagement, the department's first-ever namesake event introduced MDRT colleagues to the work they do. Snacks, mingling, hands-on activities and a quiz highlighted the event.



...and a year-long lineup of holidays and celebrations

Souper Bowl Party - February 3. Soup and sandwiches were the entree du jour in anticipation of the big game.



Clockwise, from left: Pam Brown, Colette Kostakos, Mary Ellen Klatt, Tim Sieck, Linda Reamer and Shawn Boothe



Valentine's Day - February 14. Staffers celebrated the festive holiday with a sweet table, all compliments of the MDRT Party Squad - Vic Bianchini, Laura Good, Colette Kostakos, Matt Pais and Laurie Romanazzi.



Baseball...



Summer fun... “Work Hard/Play Hard” - June 13



CEO **Steve Stahr** managed a surprise unveiling of mid-year “Work Hard/Play Hard” perks to celebrate the very successful Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. Food trucks, Flip-Flop Fridays and extra “Take Twos,” as well as bonus days for quick get-aways, the gas cards to get us there and extra cash made the day -- and the summer -- for MDRT staffers, who shared their adventures on our social media “Yammer” site.

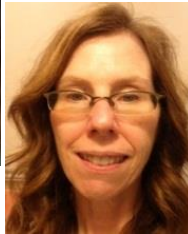
MDRT welcomed the Class of 2017:



Erin Leyden
MDRT Foundation
January 30



Allie Kleinhans
MarCom
May 15



Carrie Moore
Prof'l Development
May 17



Katy Przybytek
Prof'l Development
June 16



Adam Espino
Emerging Media
July 10



Jess Jurasz
Prof'l Development
October 11



Brittany Wright
Emerging Media
October 16



Kris Flaga
Information Technology
November 29



Sara Estrella
Global Markets
December 4



Mary Lake
Meeting Services
December 4

Congratulations to this year's Traveling Trophy Award recipients:



Kristal Montiel wields the iconic trophy

Staffers followed the Traveling Trophy's year-long odyssey through MDRT headquarters. After 30 days (give-or-take), each recipient presented the trophy to another MDRT superstar, who, in turn, signed the attached ribbon and became part of MDRT history. Award recipients are featured on the ATM's home page.

Jim Unander, January 18

Kathy Angelini, April 7

Terri Rybka, May 9

Kristal Montiel - June 19

Jenny Fisher - July 20

Joanne Consiglio - September 6

Laurie Romanazzi - October 4

Kristin Mikrut - November 8

Not Oprah's Book Club

Member Services' **Kristin Mikrut** spearheads MDRT's NOBC (Not Oprah's Book Club) every other month at Moretti's in Edison Park.



Ice Cream Social - May 12. An Oberweis ice cream buffet, compliments of the MDRT Party Squad, was a welcome kick-off to the upcoming weekend.



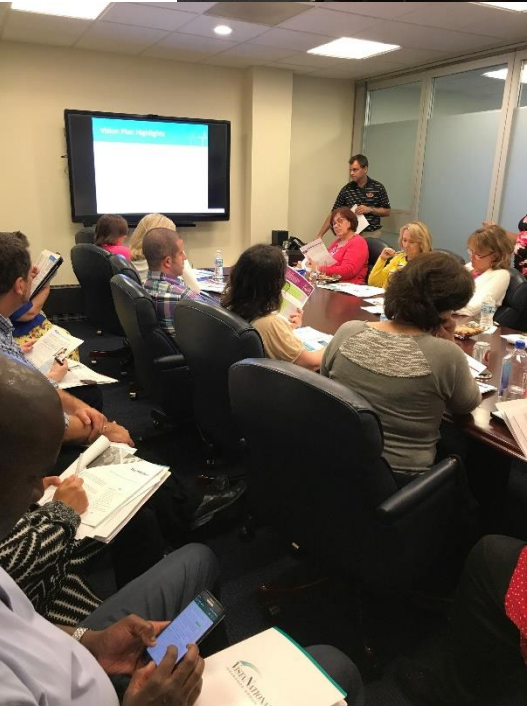
Shipping, Pizza and Jeans Day - May 25

Staffers take a break to socialize and enjoy a pizza lunch while packing materials for shipment to the Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida.

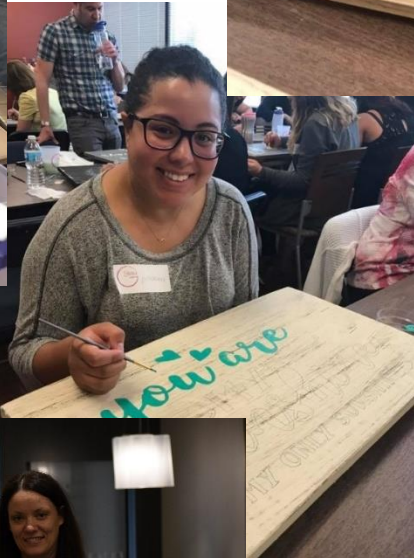


Health Week 2017 - July 10-14

Week-long offerings ranged from nutrition sessions to fast-food fixes, ways to de-stress and incorporate exercise, art therapy, health screenings, snack stations and chair massages. There also was a session on financial health with MassMutual representatives.



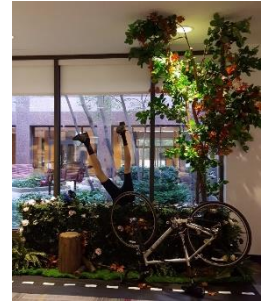
A perennial favorite, the July 11 **Art Therapy** "glitter pallet" session was one of the most popular offerings of Health Week 2017.



Executive Committee and staff “enjoyed the ride!”

Staff Breakfast - September 13

MDRT’s Executive Committee -- President Jim Pittman, Immediate Past President Mark Hanna, First Vice President Ross Vanderwolf, Second Vice President Regina Bedoya and Secretary Ian Green -- hosted its annual breakfast for MDRT staff. Following an elaborate breakfast, the Executive Committee took questions during a lively Q&A session moderated by CEO Steve Stahr.



ExCom members (from left): Secretary Ian Green, First Vice President Ross Vanderwolf, President Jim Pittman, Second Vice President Regina Bedoya and Immediate Past President Mark Hanna

Mark Hanna (right) enjoys Jim Pittman’s response to a question from an MDRT employee

Steve Stahr (photo at right) fields audience questions from the podium during the event’s question-and-answer session. Seated, from left: Ian Green, Ross Vanderwolf, Jim Pittman, Mark Hanna and Regina Bedoya





Pumpkin Carving Contest - October 23-27

As Autumn shifted into gear, winners in three categories -- "Best Self-Portrait," "Funniest" and "Scariest" pumpkins (or are they jack-o'-lanterns?) -- were announced at the end of the week-long contest following a round of judging by MDRT staffers.

"Best Self-Portrait" honors went to *Jo's Pumpkin* (right), created by Naadia Chaudhry of Human Resources and Member Services' Julie Anderson.



"Funniest" pumpkin recognition went to *Pumpkin Patch* (left), created by the Meeting Services team -- Vickie Lekan, Shalini D'Souza, Anne Dignan and Molly Kaz.

"Scariest" pumpkin (right) was awarded to an illuminated literary creation by MarCom's Allie Kleinhaus.



We saw plenty of other interesting renditions, including those by (from left) Member Services' Mary Ellen Klatt, Building Services' Rob Mikrut, and

Professional Development's Katy Przybytek.



Halloween 2017 - October 31

A holiday dessert table, once again compliments of MDRT's Party Squad, was a hit with staff.



New initiatives...

MDRT Academy Launch Lunch - November 13

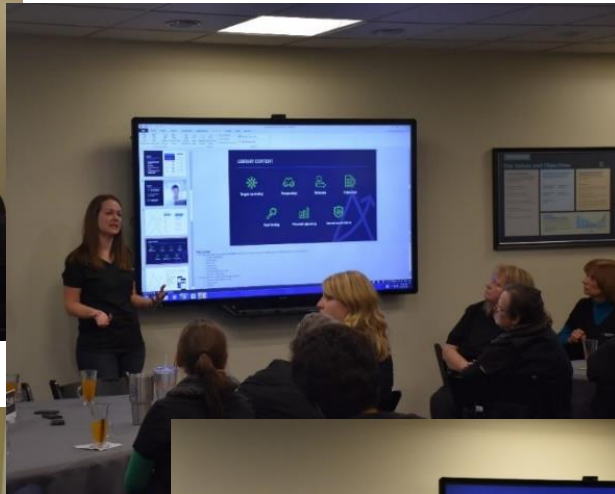
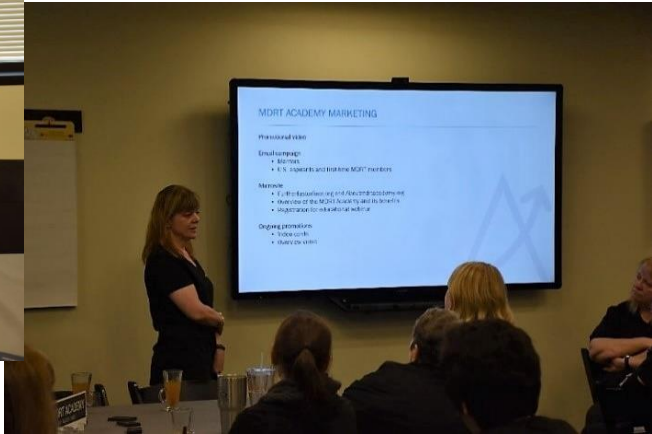
Capping months of nurturing the initiative to fruition, The MDRT Academy officially launched with lunch and an overview, compliments of the MDRTeam. Post-launch activities followed, including ongoing promotion to the beta audience and the first webcast on December 4. CEO **Steve Stahr**, MDRT Academy Manager **Tammy Johnson-Peón** and the rest of the staff team met weekly, putting in extensive amounts of time to ensure the app and website launched on time and

within budget.



Jennifer Schimka, Steve Stahr, Katie Keuncke and Tammy Johnson-Peón flank The MDRT Academy logo – “Further – Faster – Finer”





As the holiday season approached, an elf named Pixie showed up in the strangest places around MDRT headquarters. From the keyboard at the third-floor collaboration area to...



...and then there was **Festive Sweater Day**, December 14.



Annual Holiday Luncheon - December 15



Maggiano's Little Italy in Westfield Old Orchard set the stage for this end-of-year holiday bash, as MDRT turned back the clock to the 1920s' gangster and silent screen era.

Proceeds from the Holiday Lunch raffle will benefit Park Ridge-based Center of Concern. Proceeds will be matched by MDRT and the MDRT Foundation.



(Watch for photos on the ATM's Events page!)

December 2017