



2019 Year in Review

A sequel...

*'Twas the week before Christmas,
so much has transpired
that's challenged and moved us
and left us inspired.*

*We continued to flourish
as membership grew,
to seventy-two thousand,
and then some... it's true.*

*Global Domination took hold,
dual registration debuted.
"Be MDRT" launched,
new member app, too.*

*A new Executive Committee
with bold energy,
A Stahr newly ensconced
at the ASAE.*

*The Foundation, it marked
its 60th year
with a Phonathon, Gives Day
and plenty of cheer.*

*Department celebrations
took center stage, too.
Content Development turned "One,"
The Academy, "Two."*

*"A Million Reasons to Celebrate"
hailed successes so clear.
While MP&R
launched the membership year.*

*And, to our excitement,
ideas did appear
from post-it suggestions
we checked off all year.*

*Events all year 'round
and food trucks galore,
a record of seven
pulled up to our door.*

*Health Week returned
to major acclaim.
Art therapy, a team walk-off,
we stepped up our game.*

*Much more, we could mention,
That's perfectly clear,
So, with that, a look back
at this very full year.*



2019 Year in Review

Once again, celebrations and events punctuated serious business in 2019. Along with wellness offerings, opportunities to give back and opportunities to kick back, it was, indeed, a very full 12 months. Herewith are just some of the highlights...

Another year of giving, from the local community to the world stage

The generosity of MDRT staff continued front-and-center with a series of charitable donations of food, clothing, household items and toys for children and families in need through Cradles to Crayons, MDRT Gives Day, the Thanksgiving food drive, Angel Tree and more, and a series of successful Charity Week fundraisers.

Cradles to Crayons Chicago -- April 3 through May 17



Timed to coincide with the annual Spring Cleaning ritual, staff collected no-longer-used coats, clothing, linens, books and other items for **Cradles to Crayons Chicago**. The 501(c)(3) non-profit organization engages and connects communities that *have* with those who are in *need*, supplying children from birth through age 12 who live in homeless or low-income situations with the essential items they need to thrive -- at home, at school and at play. The fundraiser was organized by **Mehvi Akbar, Steve Faulhaber, Molly Kaz, Rebecca Lea Moyer** and **Katy Przybytek**.

Community outreach: Misericordia Heart of Mercy -- May 9 and November 7



Inspired by a post-it suggestion earlier this year, MDRT created yet another opportunity to help the community. In partnership with Human Resources, Facilities Director **Austin Hurley** spearheaded the first of two onsite visits in May to Misericordia Heart of Mercy in Chicago. About 20 MDRT volunteers worked alongside Misericordia residents in the on-site bakery, packaging operation, coffee and recycling programs, office skills workshop and learning center. The immense popularity of the visit



Jeanne Malone lends a hand at the Misericordia bakery during MDRT's November visit.

prompted a return outing in November for a new group of MDRT volunteers. Misericordia is home to more than 600 children and adults with developmental disabilities.



Above: November volunteers (standing, from left): Joanne Jensen, Austin Hurley, Kristin Mikrut, Suzanne Henn, Jeanne Malone, Valerie Fontanetta, Phyllis Coneset, Anne Dignan, Jen Schimka, Steve Faulhaber and Heather Booton. Front row: Laurie Romanazzi, Katy Przybytek and Norah Webster.



May 2019 volunteers (from left): Rebecca Lea Moyer, Griselda Verdin, Julie Anderson, Matt Pais, Mary Ellen Klatt, Elizabeth Diffin, Charmaine Recendez, Terri Armstrong, Joanne Consiglio, Kathy Angelini and Colleen Schneider.



Suzanne Henn (above, right) helps a resident in the bakery during the November volunteer visit.



Left: Terri Armstrong, Colleen Schneider and Julie Anderson onsite during the May visit.

Right: A Misericordia representative (left) welcomes MDRT volunteers, including Rebecca Moyer, Griselda Verdin and Matt Pais.



Joanne Jensen and Steve Faulhaber work with a resident in the Misericordia bakery.

MDRT joins “Pinwheel Palooza” and a proud roster of local businesses -- May 16

A generous donation to Park Ridge-based Center of Concern earned MDRT a spring-time invitation to host a pinwheel garden -- in front of MDRT headquarters. MDRT donated more than \$8,000 last December, all proceeds from the 2018 Holiday Party raffle, with matching funds from MDRT and the MDRT Foundation.

The local, not-for-profit organization, which provides support and services to the elderly and persons with disabilities, leads this local campaign to show support for Center of Concern and recognize the companies who support it. The May 16 “planting” joined other pinwheel gardens sprouting around Park Ridge.



Above, right: Don Wood looks on as Rebecca Lea Moyer adds a colorful pinwheel to the newly installed garden in front of MDRT headquarters.



The MDRTeam proudly showcases the congratulatory message (also photo above) honoring staff before planting it with the array of colorful pinwheels given to donors: “Center of Concern Pinwheel Palooza in honor of Million Dollar Round Table Staff.”

Thanksgiving food drive -- October 21 through November 22

It didn’t stop there. Food drive donations in 2019 once again benefited Park Ridge-based *Avenues of Independence*, which provides homes, jobs and community living programs for Chicago-area adults with physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities. MDRT has a multi-year partnership with the charitable organization.

Thanksgiving Food Drive
Benefiting
Avenues to Independence
 (Collecting from October 21–November 22)

*Second annual “MDRT Gives Day” -- November 12
another one for the books*

MDRT Foundation’s “MDRT Gives Day” raised more than USD 150,000 from more than 700 donors representing 28 countries.

Led by Donor Relations Coordinator **Caryn Henning**, Global Development Manager **Karen Matts** and a volunteer fundraising team of 36 members, the one-day, online fundraising event united the MDRT community in support of the Foundation’s global grant programs. MDRT staff supported the campaign, too -- in exchange for \$5 donations, staffers got MDRT Foundation shirts. MDRT matched all donations.



Left: Clad in MDRT Foundation shirts, staffers gather for a team photo, while the photographer (inset) lines up the shot. The shirts can be worn all year long in the office on casual dress days.

Angel Tree giving -- November 18 through December 16

Generous staff members participated in this year’s Angel Tree program, in tandem with The Salvation Army and NBC-5 Chicago. Staffers selected tags, each with a child’s specific requests for clothing and toys, by age. The program, which provides gifts to children in need during the holiday season, will culminate with recognition at MDRT’s annual holiday lunch on December 20.



The Salvation Army volunteer day -- December 12

MDRT staffers gave yet again. Facilities Director **Austin Hurley** organized a team of seriously “Hard Core” volunteers to help sort and bag gifts at The Salvation Army’s Mount Prospect warehouse for distribution to needy families during this year’s holiday season.



Austin Hurley (left), Jenny Fisher, Sue Armanetti, Yuna Kim, Sheila Darcy, Mitch Donaldson, Nikki Novak and Mike Gutierrez.

What's in a name?

“Jeans Weeks” morphs into “Charity Weeks”

With “Dress for your Day” becoming the new norm at MDRT, gym shoes and flip-flops replaced jeans as part of the ongoing, week-long fundraisers.



Gym shoes and flip-flops replaced denim as part of MDRT's new Charity Weeks.

Charity (formerly Jeans) Week fundraisers -- among the many ways in which MDRT gives back to the community -- benefit 501(c)(3) charitable organizations that have special meaning to the staff who suggest them. During the week-long fundraisers, staffers donate \$5 to the featured charity each day they opt to wear gym shoes or flip-flops to work during the week. MDRT and the MDRT Foundation match all 501(c)(3) donations.

2019 Charity Weeks generated a total \$10,620 -- \$3,540 from direct staff contributions and matching donations from MDRT and the MDRT Foundation. The program, now rounding out its seventh year, has generated a total \$92,896 since the program began in late-2012. This includes \$31,732 from direct staff contributions and matching funds from MDRT and the MDRT Foundation.

April 8-12



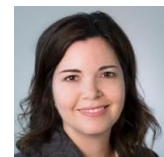
Program Coordinator **Katy Przybytek** was the impetus behind the first Charity Week beneficiary of 2019. **Humble Hearts** is a humanitarian 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to working with the homeless and families in low-income, disadvantaged communities. Humble Hearts recycles clothing, furniture, food, household needs, personal items, toys, books and school supplies to people in need.

July 22-26



Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research (FSR) came to the attention of MDRT through CEO **Steve Stahr**, who suggested FSR as the next charitable beneficiary of 2019. FSR is the nation's leading non-profit organization dedicated to finding a cure for sarcoidosis and improving patient care. Sarcoidosis is a little-known inflammatory, autoimmune disease characterized by the formation of granulomas in one or more organs of the body that can interfere with the organ's structure and function.

November 18-22



2019's third Charity Week recipient recognizes the work and dedication of **Literacy DuPage**, which provides tutors to the more than 100,000 residents in DuPage County alone who need help improving their English-language skills. A registered 501(c)(3) non-profit, community-based organization, Literacy DuPage relies on financial support from individuals and organizations in order to grow so they can reach every person who needs assistance. Literacy DuPage was suggested by Content Specialist **Antoinette Tuscano**, who also is an active board member and volunteer.

MDRT welcomed the Class of 2019:



Jessica Medell
Email Marketing Coordinator
Marketing and Communications
January 7



Sheila Darcy
Program Planner
Professional Development
February 25



Mitch Donaldson
Sponsorship Coordinator
Global Markets
May 8



Heather Booton
Programs Support Coordinator
Global Markets
May 30



Monica Kropp
HR Generalist
Human Resources
August 6



Vanessa Claude
Marketing Coordinator
Marketing and
Communications
September 30



Mark Leon
Senior Director, Finance
Finance
October 30

Showcasing 2019 Good Apple honorees



Record numbers of individuals and teams earned kudos from peers for exemplifying MDRT Core Values:

Austin Hurley and Steve Faulhaber - January 22: Integrity, Teamwork

Lena Polishuk - January 28: Excellence

Austin Hurley and Steve Faulhaber - January 29: Teamwork, Health and Wellness, Excellence

Sue Felix - February 25 (Excellence, Teamwork

Austin Hurley, Steve Faulhaber and Rob Mikrut - February 28: Excellence, Teamwork, Innovation

Tammy Chan - April 3: Excellence

Sue Felix, Vic Bianchini and Tim Sieck - May 7: Teamwork, Excellence, Innovation

Austin Hurley - May 9: Integrity, Teamwork

Jennifer Chen - May 28: Teamwork

Vic Bianchini - June 3: Teamwork

Naadia Chaudhry, Anne Dignan, Laura Good - June 20: Teamwork, Health and Wellness

Member Relations, Sue Felix and Tim Sieck - September 30: Teamwork, Communication

Rebecca Lea Moyer - September 30: Excellence

Shawne Boothe - October 24: Excellence, Integrity, Teamwork, Innovation

Vickie Lazar - November 14: Excellence, Teamwork, Fun

Mehvi Akbar and Naadia Chaudhry - December 12: Teamwork, Fun, Communication

...and Traveling Trophy awardees

True to MDRT tradition, the Traveling Trophy continued its way throughout MDRT headquarters to recognize colleagues for going beyond expectations. Each recipient signed the attached ribbon and became part of MDRT history:



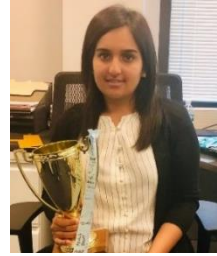
Sue Felix
January 16



Tim Sieck
March 12



Rob Mikrut
April 15



Mehvi Akbar
June 21



Mary Lake
July 22



Giang Ngo
August 19



Griselda Verdin
September 27



Jenny Fisher
October 29



Jessica Medell
December 3

Prominent Partner of the Week

Member Services' Prominent Partner of the Week Award recognizes individuals or teams who contribute skills and knowledge that help the department ensure top-level member service. The team decides whom they will recognize, presents customized certificates of appreciation and showcases the honor on Yammer. Recently marking its first anniversary, the award was launched in 2018.



First-year awards in August went to Rob Mikrut (above, left), Katie Keuneke, Kathy Angelini, Tammy Chan, Tom Ensign, Tammy Johnson-Peón, Jenni Witkov, Vickie Lekan, Steve Faulhaber, Jenny Fisher and Tim Sieck.

2019 awards in December went to Kris Flaga (left), Julie Langlie, Terri Rybka, Joanne Consiglio, Lauren Bugielski, Jessica Medell, Molly Kaz, Phyllis Coneset, Giang Ngo, Vanessa Claude, Shawn Boothe, Suzanne Henn and Joanne Jensen. Awardees also included Taylor Conrad, Emily DiAna, Kristal Montiel, Rebecca Lea Moyer, Don Noverini, Brittany Sydor and Jenni Witkov.



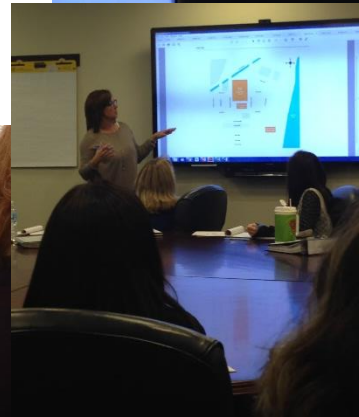
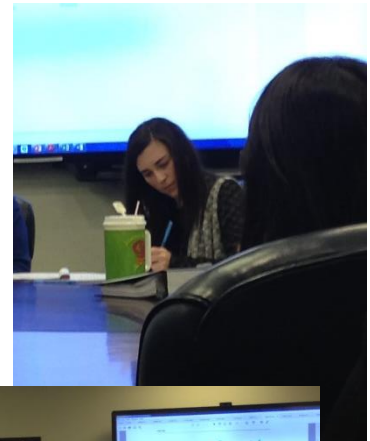
Images... 2019 meetings

Global Conference debuts, with first-time dual registration

The Global Conference debuted in 2019 and, with it, first-time dual registration for the first two major meetings of the year.

MDRT Annual Meeting -- June 9 to 12, Miami Beach, Florida

Preparation and anticipation heighten...



Staff and member arrivals...



Among the first on the scene (from left): Laurie Romanazzi, Julie Anderson, Katie Keuneke, Naadia Chaudhry, Jenny Fisher and Kristin Mikrut.



Opening Ceremony, registration and tremendous energy



The flag ceremony is a highlight of the Annual Meeting opening ceremony.



Incoming President **Regina Bedoya** offers an official welcome.



Registration welcomes meeting participants.



One of the many eye-catching attractions.

Meanwhile, staff remaining behind at MDRT headquarters show solidarity with the onsite team in Miami Beach.



A rare sight (below): the impact of an MDRT Annual Meeting on office parking.



Sporting the same T-shirts worn by their on-site counterparts, staff remaining in Park Ridge showed solidarity with the team en route to, or already setting up in, Miami Beach, Florida, ahead of the 2019 Annual Meeting.

MDRT Global Conference -- September 1 to 4, Sydney, Australia

The planning and onsite team celebrated the first Global Conference, new in 2019.



Shawn Boothe (left) helps a member order products from the MDRT Store.



Setting up before the big event ... Brittany Wright (left), Terri Rybka, Shawn Boothe, Caryn Henning and Rebecca Lea Moyer.

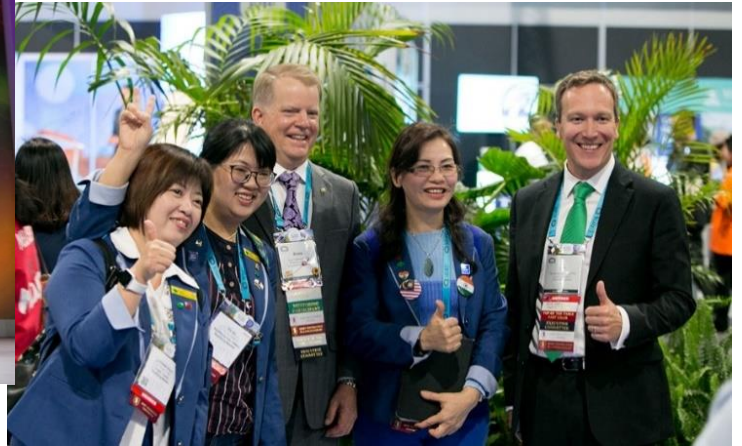


Arrivals, opening ceremony and more...





President Ross Vanderwolf welcomes incoming President Regina Bedoya during the opening ceremony.



Ross Vanderwolf (center) and then-Second Vice President Ian Green (right) greet members at the opening night reception.



Then-Secretary Randy L. Scritchfield and then-Second Vice President Ian Green can be spotted in the opening ceremony audience.



MDRT Foundation



Members volunteer at the Foundation booth to encourage donations and share information about the MDRT Foundation.



Executive Director Michele Stauff (above) greets members at the Foundation booth.

Top of the Table Annual Meeting -- September 25 to 28, Austin, Texas



Working onsite at the Top of the Table Annual Meeting are (from left): Nikki Novak, Barbara O'Connor, Phyllis Coneset, Michele Stauff, Taylor Conrad, Karen Matts, Shawn Boothe, Jess Jurasz, Jeanne Malone, Kristal Montiel and Mike Gutierrez.



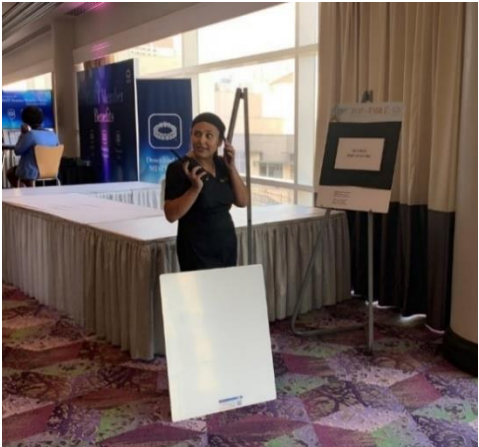
Karen Matts, helping to promote the MDRT Foundation's 60th year.



Shawn Boothe before the crowd surge at the MDRT Store.



Above: Images from the Top of the Table Annual Meeting welcome reception.



Kristal Montiel manages details during set-up.

**MDRT EDGE - October 21 to 23
New York, New York**

Engage, Develop, Empower, Grow. This year's meeting offered a face-to-face growth opportunity for members from the United States and Canada to connect with one another through experiential learning, learn new skills to run and grow their practices, find solutions for clients and position themselves in front of industry change.



*Above: MDRT President
Regina Bedoya, CLU, ChFC*



**Ship Days supported the 2019 Annual Meeting,
Global Conference, Top of the Table and EDGE**

May 30 (Annual Meeting), August 8 (Global Conference),
September 16, (Top of the Table Annual Meeting) and
October 15 (MDRT EDGE):

Shrink-wrapped pallets loaded with books, supplies and
MDRT Store merchandise took over the staging area inside
and outside Building Services in preparation for pre-meeting
transit to meeting locations.



Professional growth, learning continued...

Learning opportunities continued over the past 12 months.

Inventory Specialist **Steve Faulhaber** (right) successfully pursued his Office Service Professionals Certification (OSPC). At the same time, more than a dozen onsite and offsite workshops and classes offered project and time management, memory training, safety and security training, leading with emotional intelligence, financial education, Word and Excel overviews and other learning opportunities.



Steve Faulhaber displays a certificate of achievement marking his newly earned OSP certification.



*This lighter moment during a Project Management workshop in August (left) challenged teams to use communication skills to design and build a model helicopter from a common set of pieces. **Sue Armanetti** (left) and **Sheila Darcy** pose with the winning entry created by **Vic Bianchini** and team.*

New academic degrees...



Mike Bonifert

Web Developer **Mike Bonifert** completed his final Capstone course toward a Master of Science in Web Design and Development through online courses at the University of Denver.

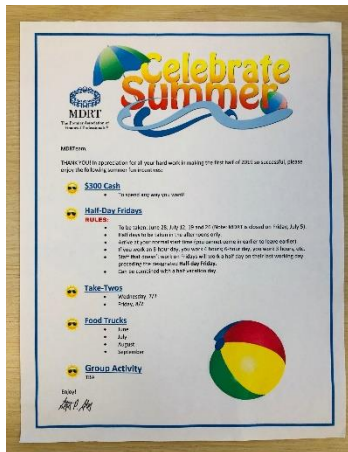


Caryn Henning

Donor Relations Coordinator **Caryn Henning** earned her Master's in Nonprofit Administration (MNA) from North Park University, with certificates in Fundraising Management, Nonprofit Governance and Nonprofit Management.

Summer 2019:

Summer fun: “Work Hard/Play Hard”



CEO Steve Stahr unveiled “Work Hard/Play Hard” perks at the June 24 All Staff meeting to celebrate the successful Annual Meeting, June 9 to 12, in Miami Beach, Florida. Extras included Flip-Flop Fridays, a couple of “Take Twos,” bonus days with extra cash and four summer food trucks to add to the already-full lineup. MDRT staffers shared their experiences on Yammer. The giveaways incorporated the Core Value “Fun,” while expressing appreciation, recognizing the team and keeping rewards meaningful. In lieu of Picnic on the Pavement this year, staff deferred celebration until the conclusion of a very full meeting season.

A record seven this year, the MDRT parking lot boasted a lot more than cars this summer:

Food truck season debuts... Mediterranean-style! Mediterranean Express: Food truck #1 -- April 30



Caryn Henning (right) joins others in line.

Rain and a chill in the air notwithstanding, MDRT’s first food truck of the 2019 season -- a surprise, at that -- was compliments of the Human Resources team.



Elizabeth Diffin (above) places an order at the window, while Giang Ngo (left), Pam Brown, Molly Kaz, Linda Reamer, Kristal Montiel and Colette Kostakos don’t appear to let the weather dampen their spirits.



Mike Gutierrez (left), Phyllis Coneset, Luann Burchfield, Valerie Fontanetta, Michelle Sweeney and Andrea Boetticher.

Surprise food truck #2 a nod to comfort food: “Cheesie’s” -- June 24

Batting 0-for-2 with weather so far, it was a perfect day for comfort food. Cheesie's food truck pulled into the MDRT lot, the second of the 2019 season and a last-minute surprise, no less. Once again, compliments of MDRT's Human Resources team.



Left: Not at all deterred by a little rain, Kristal Montiel (left) and Molly Kaz wait for their orders, while Steve Faulhaber and Vic Bianchini check the menu.



Andrea Boetticher and Mike Gutierrez.



Elizabeth Diffin (foreground) waits to place an order.



Andrea and Mike (right) join Katy Przybytek (left) and Valerie Fontanetta.

Food truck #3: Beavers Coffee + Donuts -- July 9

A perennial favorite and MDRT's third food truck of 2019, Beavers Coffee + Donuts greeted staffers with an early-morning menu of coffee and pick-your-own-topping mini-donuts.



Anne Dignan (left) and Tammy Chan.



Above, from left: Joanne Jensen, Lauren Bugielski, Julie Langlie, Andrea Boetticher, Sue Armanetti, Mike Gutierrez and Tammy Johnson-Peón.



Right: Wanda Dixon and Linda Reamer.



Jennifer Toribio (left) Traci LoBello, Mofya Kabwe and Valerie Fontanetta.



Joanne Jensen, Julie Langlie and Lauren Bugielski.

Food truck #4: Ste Martaen vegan cuisine - July 15

Vegan cuisine with an island twist was the theme of this lunchtime food truck treat.



Giang Ngo



Steve Faulhaber



Staffers inspect the vegan menu before placing lunchtime orders.



Michelle Sweeney

Food truck #5: Smoothies! -- July 21

Staffers enjoyed selections of smoothies, as yet another mid-summer food truck pulled into the MDRT lot.



Armed with custom smoothies, from left: Adam Espino, Steve Faulhaber, Jenni Witkov and Naadia Chaudhry...



Matt Pais (above, left) with smoothie in hand; Laura Good (center), Elizabeth Diffin and Mike DePilla are still in decision mode.



...along with Andrea Boetticher, Taylor Conrad, Rebecca Lea Moyer and Matt Pais.

Taco food truck #6 marks Aztec Day -- August 9

The second of four summer food trucks (the sixth of 2019) matched the Aztec Day theme.



Wayne Schmeiser (center), with Steve Faulhaber and Austin Hurley.



Steve Faulhaber and Kristal Montiel.

Food truck #7: Grill Chasers -- September 9

The seventh -- and final -- food truck of Summer 2019 rolled onto the scene for one last noon-time treat.

Right: Lunchtime crowds queue up at the Grill Chasers food truck window.



Mike Bonifert claims his order fresh off the grill.



Brittany Wright (left), Jenni Witkov, Brittany Sydor, Taylor Conrad and Jessica Medell.



Jim Unander (left), Kris Flaga and Don Wood.



Kris Flaga (left) and Jim Unander.



Michele Stauff (left), with Lena Polishuk.

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

Off to a frigid start:

A surprisingly large complement of MDRT staffers managed to get to the office in extremely unusual sub-zero temperatures, as 2019 got off to a frigid start.



Clean-up Day -- January 11



The annual Clean Up Day launched the New Year, designating time for all staff to clean hard-copy and electronic files, work areas and common areas to ensure a clean, healthy and safe work environment. Hard Core T-shirts, the attire du jour, reinforced MDRT's commitment in a visible way to our Core Values.



Hot Chocolate Bar -- February 15

MDRT's Party Squad -- Mehvi Akbar, Steve Faulhaber, Molly Kaz, Rebecca Lea Moyer and Katy Przybytek -- hosted this unexpected, mid-winter treat.



Right: The MDRT Party Squad (from left): Molly Kaz, Mehvi Akbar, Steve Faulhaber, Katy Przybytek and Rebecca Lea Moyer.



Jim Unander (left) and Tom Ensign at the hot chocolate bar set-up.



Andrea Boetticher (left), Val Fontanetta and Michelle Sweeney.



And, of course, Steve Faulhaber.

Initiatives and achievements

The following is just a sampling for 2019:

- Membership topped 72,000!
- President **Regina Bedoya, CLU, ChFC** took the helm, and the Executive Committee welcomed Secretary **Peggy Tsai, RFP, CCFP**, the first ExCom member from Asia.
- CEO **Steve Stahr, CAE**, became the newest member of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE).
- Managing Director **Barbara O'Connor** marked her first anniversary.
- MDRT's Global Conference debuted in Sydney, Australia.
- MDRT launched its first-time dual registration for the Annual Meeting and Global Conference.
- The "Be MDRT" campaign launched, helping new members in Southeast Asia learn how to better leverage their MDRT memberships.
- MDRT launched a new member app.
- The MDRT Foundation celebrated its 60th Anniversary year.
- The MDRT Academy marked its second anniversary.
- Strategic Engagement launched a new Mentoring Platform.
- Charity Week (formerly Jeans Week) donations brought MDRT's seven-year total to more than \$92,000.
- Content Development turned "1!"
- Human Resources offered at least a dozen educational and development opportunities, with more on the horizon, and staff continued to earn professional certifications and academic degrees.
- Information Technology implemented a new Data Analytics platform that is 100 percent Cloud-based.
- ...and more.



Steve Stahr makes his way across the stage at the ASAE Annual Meeting.

Health Week, art therapy and team step challenge 2019 -- July 15 to 19

Week-long offerings ranged from well-being assessments and ways to de-stress, to a team step challenge, snack stations, healthy food trucks, yoga, meditation sessions, chair massages and even financial health checks, culminating with a special *All-Stahr* lunch.



A perennial favorite and prompted by high demand, the Human Resources planning team offered *two Art Therapy* creative sessions by Glenview-based *Color Me Mine*. Art therapy, once again, was among the most popular offerings of Health Week 2019.

Right: Wanda Dixon and Suzanne Henn

Below: Tammy Chan and Mary Ellen Klatt



Michelle Sweeney and Kristal Montiel



Above: Rebecca Lea Moyer and Michelle Sweeney



Julie Langlie adds finishing touches.



Left: Giang Ngo (foreground), with Emily DiAna

Second Annual team pumpkin-decorating competition -- October 30 to 31

Department creativity took center stage for this second-annual team competition, sponsored by the Human Resources department.



First place: Strategic Engagement

The Strategic Engagement department's Colette Kostakos (left), Suzanne Henn, Linda Reamer, Pam Brown, Maureen Gallagher and Wanda Dixon with their first-place entry inspired by MDRT's new Executive Committee.

Second place: Professional Development



Posing with their winning entry: Colleen Schneider (left), Andrea Boetticher, Michelle Sweeney, Sheila Darcy, Sue Armanetti, Nikki Novak, Norah Webster, Jess Jurasz and Val Fontanetta. (Inset: Pennywise the Clown, from Stephen King's "IT.")

Third place: Global Markets

The Global Markets team apparently found Nemo.

The creative team behind this winning entry includes: Heather Booton, Eryn Carter, Roseann Casilio, Jennifer Chen, Mitch Donaldson, Sara Estrella, Erica Goldberg, Mofya Kabwe, Yuna Kim, Mary Lake, Traci LoBello and Lena Polishuk.



Let the judging begin...



Charmaine Recendez (below), for the Finance department



Building Services' Austin Hurley and Steve Faulhaber



Human Resources



Meeting Services



Marketing and Communications



MDRT Foundation



Executive



Information Technology



Content Development



Emerging Media: Don Wood (left, Wayne Schmeiser, Adam Espino and Mike Bonifert.



Another close-up of the top three vote-getters – Strategic Engagement (left), Professional Development (right) and Global Markets.



MDRT Bowling Party -- November 22

Taking our team and competitive spirit to the bowling lanes...

Responding to the flurry of back-to-back meetings bombarding staff throughout the Summer and Fall, MDRT moved its annual outing from the parking lot to Bowlero bowling lanes in Niles, replacing the traditional "Picnic on the Pavement."



(Above, from left): Gina Fadin, Tammy Johnson-Peón, Griselda Verdin, Katie Keuneke and Mike Gutierrez.



Wheel of... what?



Clockwise, from left: Eddy Mirko, Mary Lake, Valerie Fontanetta, Vic Bianchini, Jenni Witkov and Rebecca Moyer.



Caryn Henning, Suzanne Henn, Mark Leon and Terri Rybka.



Rob Mikrut (above, center) with, from left: Mary Ellen Klatt, Katy Przybytek, Jen Schimka and Adam Espino.



Brittany Sydor, Giang Ngo and Kristal Montiel.



Left: Maureen Gallagher and Linda Reamer.



Photo at left: Mike DePilla, Sara Estrella, Austin Hurley, Jess Jurasz and Jeff Jones.



Michelle Sweeney (front, center) with Vanessa Claude (left), Mofya Kabwe, Matt Pais and Joanne Consiglio.



Mike Bonifert, Julie Langlie, Nikki Novak and Tom Ensign



Lena Polishuk (left), Barbara O'Connor, Tim Sieck, Kris Flaga and Pam Brown.

Right: Clockwise (from top left): Shawn Boothe, Andrea Boetticher, Jessica Medell, Gayle Weinhouse and Laura Good.



Below: Jim Unander, Laurie Romanazzi, Mehvi Akbar and Heather Booton.



Above: Yuna Kim, Jenny Fisher, Sue Felix and Roseann Casilio.



Brittany Wright, Elizabeth Diffin, Monica Kropp and Karen Matts.

Department-sponsored events and celebrations

Departments planned their own celebratory events to share with colleagues:

Annual Meeting/Global Conference Registration Celebration -- March 18

Meeting Services hosted this mid-morning celebration as registration for MDRT's Annual Meeting and Global Conference officially went live. The two-hour open house event featured games, trivia and snacks. Shout-outs went to the lead registration team's **Kristal Montiel, Vic Bianchini, Joanne Consiglio, Don Wood, Taylor Conrad and Giang Ngo** for contributing fun facts about themselves.



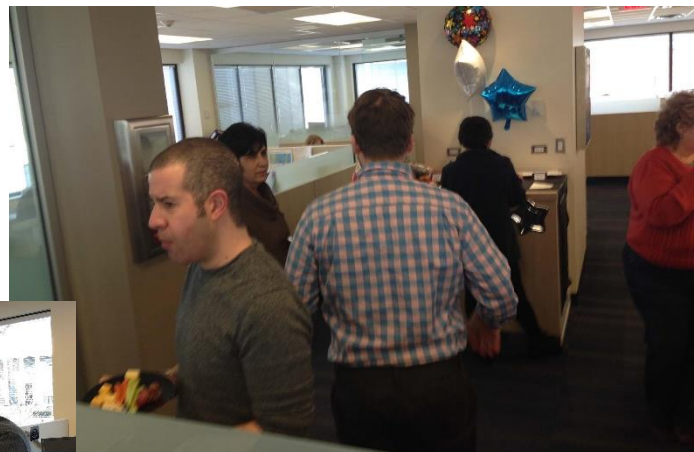
Director Meeting Services *Jeanne Malone* visits with *Jessica Medell* and *Brittany Sydor*, while fellow staffers join the celebration.



Guests enjoyed an extensive "Registration Celebration" snack buffet.



Trivia contest winners included Director, Facilities *Austin Hurley* and Member Processing Coordinator *Tim Sieck*, who nabbed second and third-place prizes, respectively. (First place went to former Senior Director, Finance *Laura McGrady*.)



Matt Pais (above, left) was one of the guests on-hand.

Content Development turned “1!” -- March 19

The Content Development-hosted event showed guests how MDRT content is created, challenged them to match hosts with their one-year-old photos and helped them learn their ABCs of content- and department-significant concepts. Staff also had a chance to create *Round the Table* cover possibilities, while enjoying kid-friendly finger foods.



Mike DePilla (left) checks details as the event gets underway.



Accepting the challenge to create a new *Round the Table* cover design are Rebecca Lea Moyer (above)...



Guests accepted a challenge to match Content Development hosts with their one-year-old photos.



Pam Brown (above left)...

...and Giang Ngo.



“E is for Editing”

There was a Content Development-specific definition for every letter of the alphabet.



“E”

“Anything that needs to be edited in the building goes through Mike DePilla. Yes, he even edited this!”

“Thanks a million... a million reasons to celebrate!”

Executive department open house -- August 7

“A million reasons to celebrate” and all-around thanks were the reasons for this Executive department-hosted event.



Showcasing the pre-event “Million Reasons to Celebrate” banner before guests added their signatures. Terri Armstrong (left), Gayle Weinhouse, Jennifer Schimka, Tammy Johnson-Peón, Steve Stahr, Gina Fadin and Barbara O'Connor.



Rob Mikrut adds his signature – and some of his reasons for thanks and celebration – to the MDRT banner.



Left: Gina Fadin and Barbara O'Connor.



Matt Pais (left), Elizabeth Diffin, Katie Keuneke and Eddy Mirko add their signatures, too.



Antoinette Tuscano (left), Wanda Dixon and Steve Faulhaber enter the event raffle.

MDRT Foundation's 60th Anniversary celebration -- August 19

Photos, an historical overview and quizzes to challenge staff marked this breakfast tribute to the Foundation's six-decade milestone achievement. Capping the special event, the Meeting Services department presented a donation to the MDRT Foundation.



*MDRT Foundation Executive Director **Michele Stauff**, with Director Meeting Services **Jeanne Malone**, proudly displays a facsimile of the generous donation from the Meeting Services department. **Back row**, from left: Vickie Lekan, Anne Dignan, Phyllis Coneset, Julie Langlie, Jeff Jones, Karen Matts, Luann Burchfield, Colleen Schneider and Mike Gutierrez. **Front row**: Pat Paul, Molly Kaz and Lauren Bugielski.*

Michele Stauff with Steve Stahr.



Pam Brown (left), Linda Reamer, Suzanne Henn and Colette Kostakos.



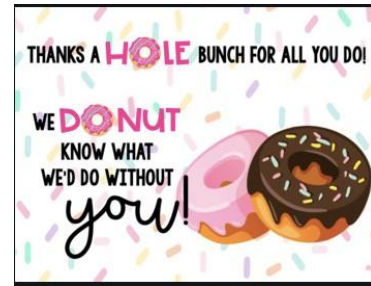
From left: Mary Lake, Laurie Romanazzi, Mary Ellen Klatt and Gina Fadin.

Customer Service Week -- October 7 to 11

The Member Relations team hosted an early-October celebration during Customer Service Week to thank MDRT staff for helping to meet the needs of members and both internal and external customers.



Donning hats to make their point are, from left: Kristin Mikrut, Julie Anderson, Mary Ellen Klatt, Laurie Romanazzi and Jennifer Toribio.



Member Relations Manager **Kristin Mikrut** explained the rationale for this special team photo:

"Here we are, wearing the many hats of customer service. Sometimes we are detectives searching for clues; cowboys wrangling information to assist better; travel agents giving and finding details of meeting offerings and locations; a collective, kind voice to assist all members globally; and magicians making the impossible happen. Our team is able to do this with the

inclusion, communication and support of the whole MDRTeam."

Building Services' 2nd Annual Pretzel Day -- October 29

Its popularity was the reason for this repeat performance. Originally launched in 2018 to showcase their newly completed first-floor space, Building Services once again hosted this pretzel-and-root beer open house.



Hosts Austin Hurley (left), Steve Faulhaber and Rob Mikrut.



Jeff Jones



Left: Austin Hurley (left) presents a pretzel necklace to Heather Batoon, while Mitch Donaldson samples a freshly made pretzel.



Linda Reamer, Mitch Donaldson and Adam Espino.



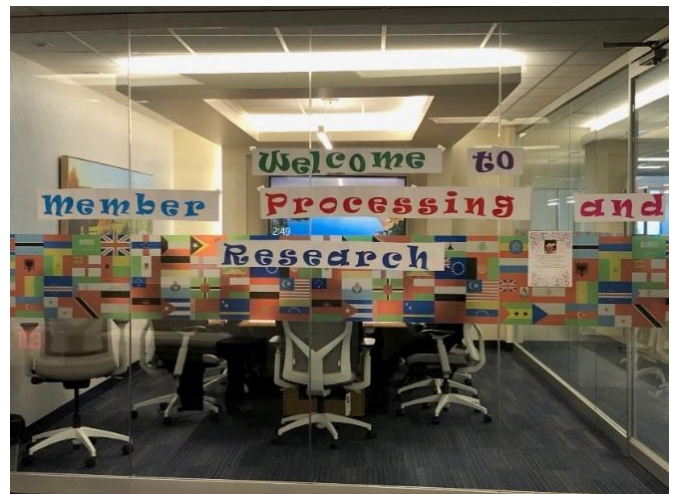
Austin offers another pretzel necklace to Maureen Gallagher.

Member Processing and Research kick-off event -- November 1

The launch of the 2020 membership season was a perfect excuse for a party. The Member Processing and Research department hosted the celebratory event featuring breakfast treats and games to mark the 2020 kick-off.



MP&R's favorite mascot has been a big part of the MDRT membership launch.



Anniversaries, retirements and an addition to senior staff

First, the anniversaries...

Pat Paul's 45th anniversary -- May 1



Pat Paul arrives, followed by Jeanne Malone and Mike Bonifert.

Her colleagues celebrated Pat's enviable 45-year tenure at MDRT with stories, recollections and immeasurable thanks. As assistant director and an expert in contract review, Pat assumes responsibility for the department in the absence of the director.



Taking in an appreciative welcome.



Pat enjoys a lighter moment as Director Jeanne Malone shares recollections,



...while Meeting Planner Anne Dignan (right) offers a serious note.



Now... and then, with one of Pat's earlier photos.



No caption needed...

Mary Ellen Klatt's 25th anniversary -- June 20

Member Relations Associate **Mary Ellen Klatt** marked her 25th anniversary at MDRT with colleagues and friends.



Mary Ellen enters to an appreciative reception from colleagues



Tributes, stories and overall gratitude from Laura Good (left) and Steve Stahr (photo, right):



Mary Ellen (center) with her Member Relations team: Kristin Mikrut, Laurie Romanazzi, Julie Anderson and Jennifer Toribio.



Mary Ellen's love for the Chicago Cubs was clearly on display.

Austin Hurley's 35th Anniversary -- November 26



Preceded by a special video tribute that was shared MDRT-wide, Facilities Director **Austin Hurley** marked his 35 years at MDRT at a special luncheon celebration with his extended Human Resources team.



His fans from the Human Resources, Building Services and Member Relations departments helped Austin Hurley celebrate his milestone 35th Anniversary at MDRT. From left: Monica Kropp, Rob Mikrut, Kristin Mikrut, Jennifer Toribio, Laurie Romanazzi, Naadia Chaudhry, Jo Rizzuto, Mary Ellen Klatt, Austin, Mehvi Akbar, Steve Faulhaber, Laura Good and Julie Anderson.



Austin unveils a gift of appreciation for his long-time service at MDRT.



Marianne Thvedt's retirement -- February 14

Stories, photos and vest pockets punctuated this celebration of Marianne's tremendous impact on the MDRT Store and her more than 32 years at MDRT.



Shawn Boothe makes a presentation during her tribute and retrospective honoring Marianne's tenure at MDRT...



Don Noverini presents an iconic vest – with pockets, of course -- to the honoree.



...then looks on as Marianne cuts the first slice of cake.



Marianne (seated, center) with her Marketing and Communications department team. Standing, from left: Jenni Witkov, Jessica Medell, Taylor Conrad, Brittany Sydor, Giang Ngo, Don Noverini and Terri Rybka. Seated: Brittany Wright, Rebecca Lea Moyer, Shawn Boothe and Emily DiAna.



Jennifer Toribio retires -- December 20

Member Relations Associate **Jennifer Toribio** retires from MDRT after 19 1/2 years of service. Jennifer -- who has held assignments in the Administration Center, Professional Services and Member Services -- has spent much of her tenure in the Member Relations department helping members fully access and use member benefits, content and information and participating in outbound call campaigns.

Mark Leon joins MDRT:

Luncheon event welcomes new Senior Director -- October 31



Following remarks and introductions by Steve Stahr and Laura Good, Senior Director, Finance Mark Leon shares a few thoughts with his new MDRT colleagues.

Halloween served as a backdrop as MDRT officially welcomed new Senior Director of Finance **Mark Leon**. Mark comes to MDRT with an extensive career in international economics and finance, most recently as Associate Executive Director at the American Library Association in Chicago.



The Finance department team, from left: Accounting Manager Joanne Consiglio, Staff Accountant Griselda Verdin, Accounts Payable Coordinator Charmaine Recendez, Staff Accountant Jean Gibellin and Senior Director Mark Leon.

Year-end highlights:

**Q&A with the Executive Committee -- December 5
Annual All-Staff Breakfast, again a resounding success**

The December tradition continued with the annual All-Staff Breakfast and question-and-answer session at the Westin O'Hare. MDRT's Executive Committee hosted the always-anticipated annual holiday event.



New president Regina Bedoya, CLU, ChFC, (seated above, center) is joined on stage for the post-breakfast Q&A session by (from left) Secretary Peggy Tsai, FRP, CCFP; First Vice President Ian Green, DipPFS; Second Vice President Randy L. Scritchfield, CFP, LUTCF; and Immediate Past President Ross Vanderwolf, CFP.

The breakfast event featured networking with the Executive Committee, directors, managers and peers; team photos; and a chance to talk one-on-one with the 2019-2020 Executive Committee. Joining new President Regina Bedoya, CLU, ChFC, were Immediate Past President Ross Vanderwolf, CFP; First Vice President Ian Green, DipPFS; Second Vice President Randy L. Scritchfield, CFP, LUTCF; and Secretary Peggy Tsai, RFP, CCFP.



A lucky winner at each table took home one of these centerpieces, each of which proclaimed two of the inspirational sentiments that drive new president Regina Bedoya.

Following breakfast and inspiring words from the new president, the Executive Committee fielded staff questions during a lively Q&A moderated by CEO Steve Stahr, CAE. The Tiffany blue theme and inspirational sentiments in the word cloud on stage were a nod to the new president. The word cloud sentiments -- which captured her inspiration, passion and words to live by -- also were mirrored in each table centerpiece.

Right: Barbara O'Connor and Steve Stahr flank the newly installed 2020 Executive Committee (from left): Ross Vanderwolf, Ian Greene, Regina Bedoya, Randy L. Scritchfield and Peggy Tsai.



Staff gathered for department photos before making their way to the hotel auditorium for the traditional, always-anticipated Q&A with the Executive Committee.



Marketing and Communications



Global Markets



Professional Development



Strategic Engagement



Information Technology



Human Resources



Finance



Executive



Content Development



MDRT Foundation (plus one)



Member Processing and Research



Member Relations



Emerging Media



Building Services



Meeting Services

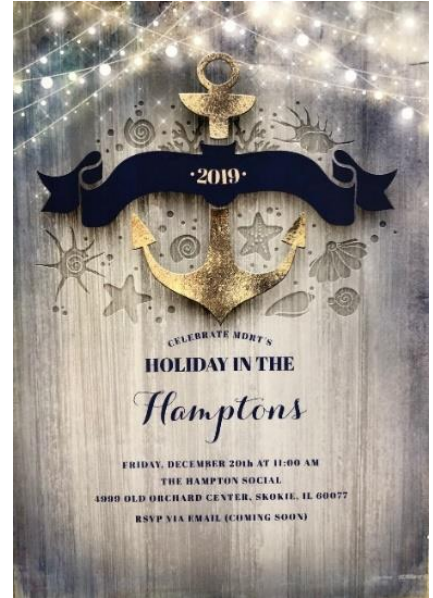
Annual Holiday Luncheon -- December 20 and holiday giving

“Holiday in the Hamptons” set the tone for the year-end celebration at The Hampton Social in Westfield Old Orchard.

MDRT partnered this year with The Salvation Army on behalf of Angel Tree, which provides gifts to children in need during the holiday season. MDRT staff selected Angel Tree tags from the display (below, left) to fulfill every child’s need and wish lists.



(Watch for Holiday Lunch photos on the ATM’s Events page!)



A bit of festivity featured in the MDRT lobby.



*Special thanks
to the Holiday Luncheon planning team*

**Naadia Chaudhry
Elizabeth Diffin
Steve Faulhaber
Valerie Fontanetta
Jean Gibellin
Lena Polishuk**

And the MDR7 Party Squad

**Mehvi Akbar
Steve Faulhaber
Molly Kaz
Rebecca Lea Moyer
Katy Przybytek**

For those who are not featured in this abbreviated “2019 Year in Review,” our apologies.

An expanded version of this retrospective, including to-be-added photos from today’s Annual Holiday Luncheon, will find a home on MDRT’s new intranet.

December 2019