



MEDIA RELEASE

MDRT Announces Main Platform Speakers for 2008 Annual Meeting

Wednesday March 27, 2008. The Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT), The Premier Association of Financial Professionals® has announced details of the Main Platform presenters for the forthcoming Annual Meeting and Olympic Gold medallist Mary Lou Retton will be the opening speaker.

MDRT holds an Annual Meeting to bring together its members from across the world and provide them with an opportunity to network with fellow industry professionals from different countries; to exchange ideas; network; and obtain new insights into the financial services industry and adapt new techniques that can assist attendees to run their practices more effectively and provide better service to clients.

“The Annual Meeting is seen as a great camaraderie builder, allowing members to develop lasting friendships and business relationships, as well as receive ideas, knowledge and encouragement from other professionals from around the world,” said MDRT Oceania Chairperson, Mrs. Beverley Carlyon.

Toronto Canada will host the 2008 Annual meeting from June 22 – 26 and is expected to draw over 6,000 members from around the world, and the more than 70 educational, motivational and entertaining sessions will offer something for the attendees.

Mrs. Carlyon continued, “The Annual Meeting main platform presenters always have a profound and life-changing impact on our attendees.”

“With one more day of programming than in the past, this year's meeting attendees will get more inspiration and motivation than ever before.”

The theme of the 2008 MDRT Annual Meeting is “Changing Lives,” and some of the Main Platform speakers include:

Monday, June 23:

Ken Dychtwald, Ph.D. – One of world’s foremost visionary and original thinkers regarding the lifestyle, marketing and workforce implications of the “age wave,” he will provide an overview of the current state of retirement and a vision of tomorrow's new retirement dream. He will also discuss the role financial advisors must play to provide baby boomers with a financial wake-up call.

Solomon Hicks – An internationally sought-after speaker, career coach and consultant, he is a 20-year MDRT member and spends much of his time mentoring other agents, and an astounding 80% of his mentored students to become top producers. The author of two books, Solomon will share his inspiring life story and how he turned his hardships into success.

Mary Lou Retton – At the 1984 Olympic Games, she captured America's heart and catapulted to international fame after becoming the first American woman to win a gold medal in gymnastics. Today, she remains one of the most popular athletes in America and travels around the world sharing her strategies for success.

[Tuesday, June 24:](#)

Consuelo Castillo-Kickbusch – Breaking barriers and setting records in the military, she became the highest-ranking Hispanic woman in the Combat Support Field of the United States Army. Acknowledged as a charismatic, passionate and entertaining speaker, she will show what it takes to be an effective leader in today's global marketplace and explain to meeting attendees why leadership is not about us, but about the legacy we leave behind.

Patrick & Patrick Henry Hughes – This father and son team will discuss how being born blind and confined to a wheelchair has not slowed Patrick Henry down. With the unrelenting help of his father, he has been able to accomplish more than most people ever will, and he is only in college. They will show attendees how to overcome obstacles and realize their potential.

John W. McTigue, CLU – A 23-year MDRT member, he is a leader who grows leaders. His office leads the Northwestern Mutual network not only in production but also in productivity per representative. While McTigue's professional story will set a framework for agents to build upon, what sets his presentation apart is his very difficult and emotional journey.

[Wednesday, June 25:](#)

Todd Buchholz – A former director of economic policy at the White House, a managing director of the \$15 billion Tiger hedge fund, and an award-winning economics teacher at Harvard, he targets his entertaining remarks to the cutting edge of economics, finance, and business strategy. A former senior economic adviser to President Bush, he “lights up economics with a wickedly sparkling wit,” said the Associated Press. Successful Meetings Magazine named him one of the “21 Top Speakers for the Twentieth Century,” as he entertains audiences by showing them how to thrive in a chaotic economy, while gearing up for prosperity.

Margie H. Daniel – As a 19-year veteran in the financial services industry, she has built a reputation as a relationship builder. A three-year MDRT member Margie will share her uncommon success story and the many obstacles she has overcome to get to the top.

Nando Parrado – He was one of 15 Uruguayan rugby players who survived for 72 brutal days after their plane crashed into the frozen Andes Mountains 30 years ago. This remains one of the paramount survival stories of all time, and he will share his story of courage, teamwork, determination and leadership, experienced at a level few have known.

His life story was portrayed in the 1993 movie “Alive” starring Ethan Hawke as Nando.

Thursday, June 26:

Tom Flick – A former Rose Bowl Champion, Pac-10 Conference “Player of the Year” and successful NFL quarterback, he has the exceptional ability to communicate clear business solutions with humor, wit and razor-sharp insight. He is an expert on helping organizations define their vision, raise employee morale, improve customer service, increase sales, strengthen teamwork and improve communication, helping lead effective change and develop leaders and leadership teams.

James B. Maas, Ph.D. – An expert on sleep and author of the New York Times best seller “Power Sleep: The Revolutionary Program That Prepares Your Mind for Peak Performance,” he will share why to be a peak performer you must be able to concentrate, remember, make critical and creative decisions, communicate persuasively, and be productive all day long. He will show attendees how to lose stress, not sleep.

In addition to Main Platform speakers, there will be 48 Focus Sessions in the afternoon during the Annual Meeting on topics such as business insurance, core products, employee benefits, estate planning, financial planning, practice management, sales ideas and Whole Person.

“The theme for the 2008 MDRT Annual Meeting is ‘*Changing Lives*’ is so appropriate as it reflects the way MDRT changes the lives of its members and they in turn change the lives of their clients by securing their financial well being,” concluded Mrs. Carlyon.

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