

# **Getting Started with** The Practice Manager™

for Financial Services Professionals

Practice Manager™ Getting Started Guide

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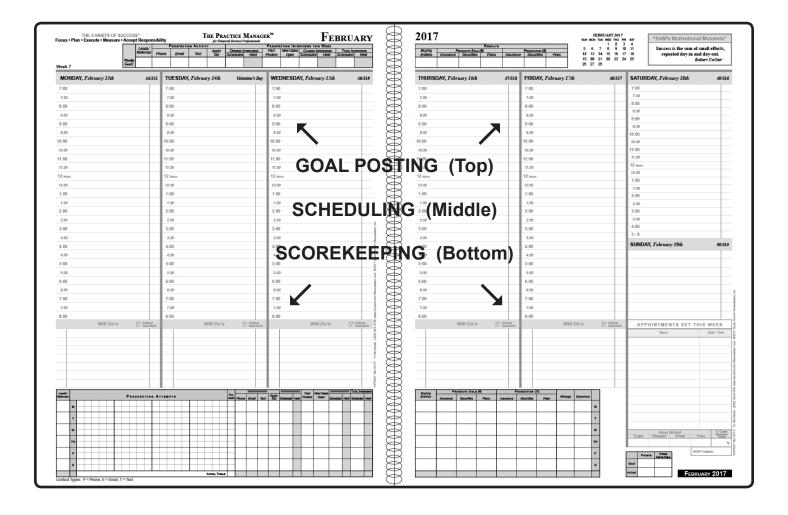
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### Introduction

### What is the Practice Manager™?

The Practice Manager is the Number One selling planner in the industry! It is a personal productivity tool that is part calendar book and part scorecard. You can use your planner as the one central location to both determine your goals and gather your results to measure the success of your business.

The **Practice Manager™** puts the control of your business in your hands, by keeping your goals in front of you at all times (both consciously and subconsciously) and keeping you focused on the high-payoff activities necessary to achieve them. The purpose of this guide is to get you started using your new planner as part of a Sales Activity Management system to manage your business and ensure your success.



## What is Sales Activity Management?

It is a philosophy and a strategy that empowers its users to have more confidence and better control of their own success by providing a performance road map to get on track and stay on track. It is the belief that we all have the potential to achieve great things and that activity management doesn't leave success to chance. Here is a more complete definition:

**Sales Activity Management:** the self-empowering process of identifying, managing and measuring high-payoff sales activities in order to continually improve results.

By using the principles of activity management you will achieve a better understanding of your business. You will be able to see both the activities that are driving your results, as well as identify where bottlenecks are occurring. Your manager or mentor can play a crucial role in clearing any bottlenecks by helping you to diagnose them and develop solutions.

## **Three Principles of Sales Activity Management**

These are the three guiding principles of sales activity management:

- Sales is a numbers game (Quantity)
- Quality activities produce quality results (Quality)
- What gets measured tends to get done and improve (Measurement)

By measuring the quality and quantity of sales activities you'll gain a solid understanding of your practice and where your strengths and opportunities for improvement lie. Activity management is a career long commitment. You should avoid the mistake of thinking that activity-tracking is only necessary during the early years of your career. Discipline is a career-long commitment that can pay big dividends.

Although activity management will certainly improve your performance when implemented correctly, it is not a panacea. We can't forget that the financial services business is first and foremost a people business. Remember that you are behind the numbers and at the end of the day, those who establish the best relationships and see the most people, will succeed.

Finally, you must accept the fact that you are ultimately responsible for your own success. It has been said that destiny is not a matter of chance, but one of choice. It is the activities that you choose to perform that will ultimately shape your destiny, and you are the one who is responsible and in control of those activities.

We wish you the greatest of success, and trust that eScoreBoard will help you achieve it. We have included the following recommended readings to help you get started.

The Spirit to Serve, by J.W. Marriott
E-Myth, by Michael Gerber
As a Man Thinketh, by James Allen
Think & Grow Rich, by Napoleon Hill
The Common Denominator of Success, by Albert E.N. Gray

## **Getting Started - Practice Manager Review/Activity**

## As a result of your Practice Manager review and completing this activity, you will:

- Become familiar with the basic functionality of your Planner
- Perform the 4 Basic Planner Skills:
  - 1. Complete Your Simple Business Plan
  - 2. Post Your Goals
  - 3. Keep Score Daily
  - 4. Weekly Totals
- Become familiar with the Practice Manager Definition of Terms
- Review a Sample Model Week
- · Review the Business Management section
- Review the Scorekeeping Guidelines

#### Instructions:

- · The Activity Checklist below details a suggested process for learning to use your planner
- Use the Activity Checklist to track your progress as you complete each task

Status	Task/Outcome	Where To Find It
	Read:     Introduction     What is Sales Activity Management     Three Principles of SAM     What's in it for me? brochure Check status box and continue to the next task.	Practice Manager Getting Started Guide What's in it for me? brochure
	Step 1 Complete the Simple Business Plan Check status box and continue to the next task.	Practice Manager Getting Started Guide Practice Manager
	Step 2 Post Your Goals Check status box and continue to the next task.	Practice Manager Getting Started Guide Practice Manager
	Step 3 Keep Score Daily Check status box and continue to the next task.	Practice Manager Getting Started Guide Practice Manager
	Step 4 Weekly Totals Check status box and continue to the next task.	Practice Manager Getting Started Guide Practice Manager
	Step 5 Review the Practice Manager Definition of Terms Check status box and continue to the next task.	Practice Manager Getting Started Guide
	Step 6 Review the Sample Model Week Check status box and continue to the next task.	Practice Manager Getting Started Guide
	Step 7 Review the Business Management Section Check status box and continue to the next task.	Practice Manager Getting Started Guide Practice Manager
	Step 8 Review the Scorekeeping Guidelines Section Check status box. Refer often to the Getting Started Guide!	Practice Manager Getting Started Guide

## **Step 1 - Complete the Simple Business Plan**

In order to be successful in any endeavor, you need a strong sense of purpose, clear direction and proper action steps. Goal setting helps you in all three categories. We describe them as: Why Goals, What Goals and How Goals. The SIMPLE PGA Business PLAN, located in the front of your planner, will help you to clarify your "Why Goals", or Purpose; with your Personal Mission; Business Vision and Guiding Principles; your "What Goals"; or Business Goals; by stating your Income and Professional Goals. Please confer with your Manager to develop your "How Goals"; or Action Plan by calculating your activity goals.

The sample sections that follow come from real producers that have completed the Simple Business Plan and are provided to give you ideas to consider. Keep in mind that your plan should reflect your personal feelings, what motivates you and your goals.



**Refer to** the front of your Practice Manager<sup>TM</sup> (the second page) and follow the instructions to complete your Simple Business Plan.

#### I. Purpose

☐ Read the definition below and complete your Personal Mission in your planner.

#### PERSONAL MISSION

My personal mission is to truly make a difference in the world and to feel personally fulfilled by the work that I do.

#### **Personal Mission**

A Mission Statement is a clear statement that represents your true motivators for taking action. It goes beyond the superficial to the deep seated reasons why you want to become more successful and what will motivate you to do so. Very often it represents family, feelings and legacy. It inspires passion, and feeds the spirit...not the wallet. A personal mission statement is usually very personal and stated in a way that is non-measurable, non-numerical and inspirational. It may include phrases like: To be well thought of and respected; To be successful; To have a great image/reputation; To become a leader; To provide a wonderful environment and ideal lifestyle for my family to enjoy, To make a difference, To carefully balance the needs of my family and work, etc. It's your true reason to get out of bed in the morning.

Figure 1: Sample Personal Mission

Read the definition below and complete your Business Vision in your planner.

#### **BUSINESS VISION**

My business vision is to build my practice with integrity to establish my reputation in the community. I will achieve MDRT level production by the end of the year.

#### **Business Vision**

A Business Vision Statement is a clear statement of what you want your business to look like in the future, i.e. 1-5 years. It can be stated in terms of size, reputation, prominence and/or production. Your business vision must be congruent with and help you accomplish your personal mission. Examples: To build a full-services practice with the finest reputation in the city; To qualify for MDRT, Top of the Table, and Court of the Table.

Figure 2: Sample Business Vision

Read the definition below and complete your Guiding Principles in your planner.

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

My guiding principles are to conduct myself with honesty and integrity so that I will never feel personally compromised.

#### **Guiding Principles**

The emotional rules that govern your personal and business behavior make up your guiding principles and reflect your core values. They are the formal and informal ways that you conduct yourself, and the next step is to make sure that your behavior is consistent and congruent with your personal mission and business vision. Examples: Honesty, integrity, work ethic, kindness, mutual respect, punctuality, profitability, etc.

Figure 3: Sample Guiding Principles

#### II. Business Goals (Financial/Professional)

"What" Goals are your objectives for the year. Be specific, notice that the income goal gives you the opportunity to review your goals in 3 ways; Basic, Preferred and Dream Lifestyle. Consider these definitions:

**Basic**: meeting your basic income needs (versus your expenses).

Preferred: achieving your first level leaders club for your company or MDRT.

Dream: what would you achieve in your dreams? Top level leaders club; a new house, or dream car?

☐ **Complete** your income goals along with your Professional Goals; i.e., industry designation (e.g., CLU, ChFC, CFP), product specialty, etc...

A. Income Goal: \$ 35,000 \$ 75,000 \$ 100,000 Dream Lifestyle

- B. What are my three primary professional goals this year? (Position, Designations/Awards, Skills, MDRT, etc.)
- 1. Achieve my Dream Lifestyle income goal
- 2. Penetrate minimum of 3 target markets
- 3. Complete my first CLU course

Figure 3: Sample Income and Professional Goals

Goals should have six qualities, represented by SAM-I-AM: Specific, Activated, Measurable - Incremental - Achievable, Motivational. Focus on the week, but treat each day like game day.

## Step 2 - Post Your Goals

One of the greatest benefits of the Practice Manager is the way it keeps your goals in front of you at all times, by having you print them in the Goal Boxes across the top of each week-at-a-glance page. Posting your goals each week helps to provide continuity (both consciously and subconsciously) with your business plan.

	1 1 - 1	F	ROSPECTIN	IG ACTIVIT	Υ		Prospecting Interviews this Week											
	Leads/ Referrals				Appts	OPENING I	NTERVIEWS	Fact	New Cases	CLOSING I	NTERVIEWS	TOTAL INTERVIEWS						
	Neicirais	Phone	Email	Text	Set	Scheduled	Held	Finders	Open	Scheduled	Held	Scheduled	Held					
Weekly Goals:	3	25	35	20	15	8	7	7	5	7	5	15	12					

	RESULTS													
Buying	Pi	RODUCTS SOLD	(#)		PRODUCTION (\$)	)								
Entities	Insurance	Securities	Plans	Insurance	Securities	Fees								
2	1	1		800	500									

## Step 3 - Keep Score Daily

You may not be able to control your results, but you can influence them by controlling your activities. Giving yourself credit by recognizing your accomplishments helps balance out the emotional roller-coaster often associated with your sales/planning cycle.

The grids across the bottom of the week-at-a-glance calendar pages make it easy to keep score daily by providing you with boxes to capture your activity as you perform them throughout the day.

#### **Prospecting Attempts**

For every attempt you make to a prospect, mark it with a (P = Phone, E = Email, T = Text) to determine which type of effort attempted. If you contact the prospect (or someone who has the ability to set the appointment) directly, circle the Letter used. If you scheduled an appointment with that person, place a checkmark through the circled Letter in that box. If a prospect returns your attempt circle the next open box and put a checkmark in that box if an appointment is set.

Attempts = Letter (P,E,T)
Contacts = Circles
Meetings Set = Check-marks

Leads/																PROSPECT	NG ACTIVITY		OPENING INTE	ERVIEWS	Fact	New Cases	CLOSING INTE	ERVIEWS	TOTAL INTE	RVIEWS								
Referrals									Tot. Calls	Phone	Email	Text	Appts Set	Scheduled	Held	Finders	Open Open		Held	Scheduled	Held													
		Р	Ε	P	Т	Р	<b>E</b> /)	T	Ε	Е	R	Ε	Е	Т	Р	Ε	Р	Р	Р	Т	Р		17	15	8	25	21	17	2	1	2	1	8	5
	М	Ε	P	T	P	Ε	Т	P	E	Р	Р	Ε	Р	Т	Р	Ε	Т	Ε	Ε	Р	Ε	40	17	15	0	25	21	17		'		1	0	5
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		Actual Totals:																																

Contact Types: P = Phone, E = Email, T = Text

Note: Your planner contains enough boxes for 40 Attempts per day.

#### All Other Activity Grids

Tally the results of your Prospect Calls into the appropriate boxes to the right, then, at the end of each day, review that day's calendar entries and transfer the information to the balance of the boxes; i.e., interview activity and sales results.

Leads/																								Prosp	ECTING ACTIVIT		OPENING INT	ERVIEWS	Fact	New Ca.	CLOSING I	NTERVIEWS	TOTAL INT	ERVIEWS
Referrals									<b>P</b> R O	SPE	CTIN	g A	ТТЕ	MPT	s							Tot. Calls	Phone	Ema	il Text	Appts Set	Scheduled	Held		Open		ed Held	Scheduled	d Held
	М	Р	E	P	T	P	E/	) T	E	E	R	E	E	T	Р	Ε	Р	Р	P	Т	Р		17	15	8	25	21	17	2	1	2	1	8	5
	IVI	Ε	P	) T	P	E	T	F	) (E	) P	P	Ε	P	T	P	Ε	T	E	Ε	P	Ε	40	17	13	0	23	21	17		-		,	0	3
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## Step 4 - Weekly Totals

At the end of the week, you'll want to tally up your daily activities in the "Actual Totals" line in the grid at the bottom of the page and then transfer them to the appropriate "Quarterly ScoreCard" in the back of the planner.

## **Practice Manager Definition of Terms**

**Qualified Leads/Referrals:** A person or business entity that meets your or your company's requirements to be a solid lead or referral. You may want to further classify them as "Qualified" which means you should generally know a Suspect's name, age, address, occupation, title, approximate income and telephone number.

#### PROSPECTING ATTEMPTS/ACTIVITY

**Prospecting Attempts:** Any attempt made (Phone, Email, Text) to a prospect for the purpose of securing the next appointment to advance the sale. These are usually via phone, but may be in person. (It's important not to confuse movement with achievement, but you can't have achievement without it.)

**Prospecting Activity:** Actual contacts with people who have the authority to book an appointment through Calls, Emails or Text.

**Appointments Set:** The number of appointments set or booked as a result of your Prospecting Activities.

#### PROSPECTING INTERVIEWS THIS WEEK

**Opening Interviews:** An initial discovery Interview, to explain your firm's capabilities and to discuss potential issues. A fact-finding interview is usually scheduled at this meeting, or may take place simultaneously.

**Fact Finders:** The actual face-to-face meeting and completion of the Evaluation or Fact-finding form with a new prospect (or assigned account) with whom you have not previously met. This meeting is frequently referred to as the Needs Assessment or Confidential Information gathering appointment, at which the Agent/Rep/Advisor usually takes notes and gives the prospect homework to do, so that all relevant data can be collected for a follow-up meeting. Any company approved Fact Finding form or process may be used.

**New Cases Opened:** Refers to a person or business entity whom you have enough information about that, in your opinion, has a strong interest in doing business with you, and someone with whom you most likely have a future appointment scheduled. This can refer to either business with a new prospect, or repeat business with an existing client.

**Closing Interviews:** Any meeting or interview in which you ask a prospect or client for their business. It most commonly refers to asking for money, but may also refer to a request for their signature or approval for anything that advances the sale toward a positive decision and successful conclusion. You are asking the prospect or client to take an action which is required for the finalization of the sale.

**Total Interviews:** The total number of opening and closing interviews added together. (See Other Appointments Held for additional options and explanation.)

#### PRODUCTS & PRODUCTION

**Buying Entities:** The number of households, families, wallets/pocketbooks or organizations that purchase your product or service. Since you may sell multiple insurance products or other financial instruments to one entity, this is a vital number to track, and the only way in which you can accurately track your "closing ratio" and "average case size."

**Insurance:** The number of submitted life insurance or related insurance apps or lives submitted and the coinciding first year commission (or the annualized premium value). These are generally sales that require underwriting such as life, disability or long term care insurance.

**Securities:** This is the number of submitted sales and dollar production from products sold that do not require underwriting such as equities, annuities and other financial products or fees. (Note: Some companies report annuities under the insurance category. (Please check with management for your exact definition.)

Plans: The number of financial plans sold and the fee or dollar amount charged/collected.

Fees: The fees or dollar amount charged/collected for financial plans sold.

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**POINTS SYSTEM=** You may also want to use a point system to help you keep on track with your activities. Here are some samples of activities to which you may want to assign points: Qualified Referrals/Leads = 1 point, Contacts=1 point, Appointments Set = 2 points, Appointments Kept = 1 Point, Fact Finders = 1 point, Cases Open = 1 point, Completed Applications = 5 points, Closing Interviews = 2 points. Here's another optional points system: Qualified Prospects = ½ point, Fact Finders = 1 point, Cases Open = 1 point, Closing Interviews = 1 point. (Please check with management for your customized point system, if applicable.)

**OTHER APPTS HELD=** This category enables you to track your other appointments, i.e. advancing, client service appointments, etc., for those who want to assess the total amount of face time during a given period. (Note: If you include advancing or client service interviews in the total interviews above, we recommend you only do so if it could also be considered a closing interview.)

## **Develop a Model Week**

Time management is an essential part of building your practice and using a model work week helps to keep you focused on your high pay-off sales activities. Utilize the model week provided to you by your manager and/or refer to the sample that follows. The key is to create model week for yourself that matches your practice and market. While there is no doubt that you need to "seize the day", you must do so with the "week" in mind and "seize the week" with as much enthusiasm.

While keeping in mind your key tasks, identify them appropriately on your calendar pages, and transfer those activities that you deem necessary to the monthly calendar pages. Using your week-at-a-glance calendar pages, block out productivity time, administrative time, self-development time, personal time, etc., from Monday through Saturday, to the best of your ability.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Exercise	Personal Time	Exercise	Personal Time	Exercise	
7:00	(Recommended)		(Recommended)		(Recommended)	Personal Time
7:30	Organizational/	Mail & E-Mail	Mail & E-Mail	Mail & E-Mail	Mail & E-Mail	
8:00 8:30	Team Meeting	Role Play: Phone Scripts	Review Marketing Plan	Review Referral Scripts	Administrative/ Clean-up Time	Phone Clinic Kick Off
9:00 9:30 10:00	CLASSROOM TRAINING: Fact Finders	Phone Clinic and/or	Classroom Training: Case Analysis	Role Play: Phone Scripts Referral Scripts	Prospecting/ Marketing/ Early Appointments	Appointment (Optional)
10:30 11:00 11:30	Key Money Concerns Drill for Skill Getting Referrals	Prospecting Time	Administrative/ Clean-up Time	Prospecting/ Marketing	Prospecting/ Marketing/ Early Appointments	Phone Clinic and/or Prospecting Time
12:00 12:30	Closing Interviews		·	, in g	Prospecting/ Marketing	Treepesting Time
1:00	Lunch and Learn	Lunch and Learn	Lunch and Learn	Lunch and Learn	Lunch and Learn	
2:00	Return Calls	Return Calls	Return Calls	Return Calls	Return Calls	
2:30 3:00 3:30	Individual 1-on-1's: (PEP/GOALS Activity Review)	Prospecting/ Marketing	Prospecting/ Marketing/	Prospecting/ Marketing	Team Meeting: Weekly Activity Planning	Personal Time
4:00 4:30 5:00	Prospecting/ Marketing	Marketing	Early Appointments	Personal Time	Case Review with Manager	SUNDAY
5:30		Phone Clinic Kick Off			Phone Clinic Kick Off	
6:00 6:30	Appointment	Phone Clinic 50-100 Dials	Appointment	Appointment	Phone Clinic 50-100 Dials (Record Data in	Personal Time
7:00 7:30 8:00	Appointment	(Record Data in SAM Book)	Appointment	Appointment	SAM Book)  Hand-in Activity Reports/eScoreboard	
8:30 9:00	Appointment	Personal Time	Appointment	Appointment	Personal Time	

Types of Appointments: Fact Finders, Closing, Strategy, Service, etc.

## **Business Management**

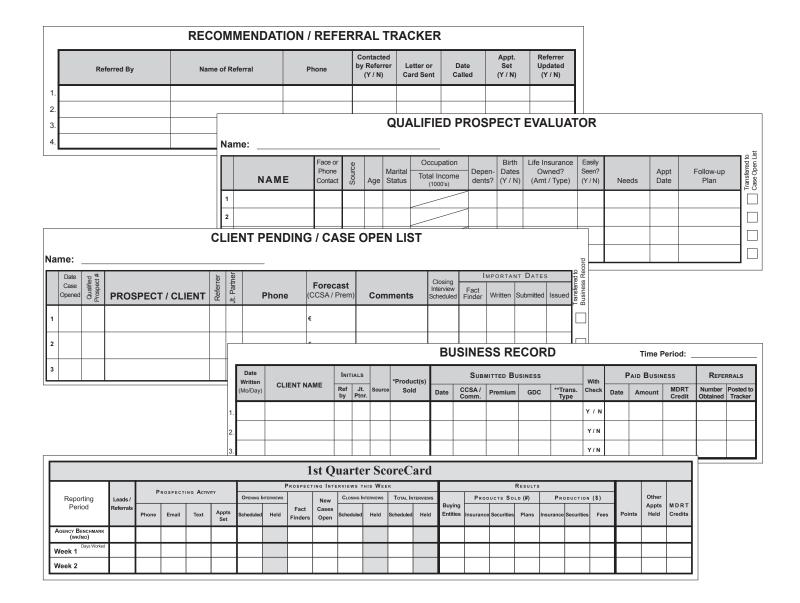
The final step is to maintain your business plan over time to ensure success. Be sure to involve your manager to receive the proper coaching and support. This objective opinion is critical to achieving your goals.

The Practice Manager contains the monthly/quarterly/annual practice management pages you need to manage your business:

- Recommendation / Referral Tracker
- Client Pending / Case Open List
- Quarterly ScoreCards

- Qualified Prospect Evaluator
- · Business Record
- Annual ScoreBoard

These pages are self explanatory in nature and follow the client building and sales activity management process. We hope that you find these tools an effective way to manage your business.



## **ScoreKeeping Guidelines**

#### **DAILY:**

- 1. Keep Your Goals in the Forefront As you begin each day, and periodically throughout the day, scan your goals which are across the top of each calendar page, as well as the inspirational quotes. This helps keep motivation high, while resisting negativity and the seemingly endless distractions of the day.
- 2. Focus on High-payoff Activities Do what you must first throughout the day. Seize the day...but with the week in mind. When you are at work, be at work, so that when you're home, you can be at home.
- 3. Keep Score Daily Using the grids across the bottom, keep score and give yourself credit. Remember, "What gets measured tends to get done and improve."
- 4. Use your Schedule Wisely Respect your time by wasting as little as possible and stick to your Model Week.
- 5. Before retiring, post and prioritize At the end of each day, tally your results in the daily grids and priori tize tomorrow's goals. Remember, your subconscious never sleeps and often you'll awaken with the answers and motivation you were searching for.
- 6. Keep your Qualified Prospect Evaluator, Case Open List, Business Records & Recommendation/ Referral Tracker, Recommendations & Referral List current – This should be done each day/week.

#### **WEEKLY:**

- 1. Keeping Score Daily/Weekly Results Add up your daily scores and write them in the total columns at the bottom and to the right of the scorekeeping grids.
- 2. Review Progress Review how you are doing against your goals. Remember the sage advice from the Kinder Brothers, "Measure and monitor what matters most."
- 3. PEP/One-on-one Coaching Meet with your manager and ask them to help you refine your skills. Be sure to bring your planner and any tracking reports to your coaching session.

#### MONTHLY:

Throughout the month, you need to take time to work on your business, as well as in your business. By that we mean, you need to perform the necessary activities, but you also need to collect information along the way so that you can analyze and strategize on ways to get better.

- 1. Keep Score Update your daily/weekly results and enter them on your Monthly/Quarterly ScoreCard so you can review your results monthly and other frequencies.
- 2. Review Last Month's Goal vs. Actual Performance Stop and reflect on the last month. What's going well? What are your opportunities for improvement? What kinds of things can you do to improve?
- 3. Update Recommendations/Referrals & Case Open Lists Record or check the status of all prospects and open cases. This becomes your "Hot List" of cases to be developed or closed during the upcoming month, which will initiate your contact call list. Record these in the daily "Will Do's" sections of the upcoming month.

- 4. Update Business Record Using the section in the back, post all business submitted, issued and paid throughout the month, as well as business-in-transfer. Be sure to track MDRT credits
- 5. Prepare for PEP/One-on-one Coaching and Sales Team Meeting Bring your planner and any tracking reports to review your results in detail with your manager.
- 6. Review Recommendation/Referral Tracker & Referral Scripts Recommendations/Referrals and personal introductions are the life blood of a successful financial services practice. Review your exist ing list (inventory) of referrals. Check the quantity and quality of your existing referrals. Determine how many of these you will call each day and record this goal in the "Will Do's" sections. This is also the time to review your list of names that you are going to suggest to prospects and clients to help prompt their referral efforts. An example might be a roster of Associates in a law firm or a list of company officers. This is also an excellent time to review your referral language. Are you comfortable with the content? Have you mastered it?
- 7. Complete Mileage & Expense Reports No business achieves its full potential without good financial records. The mileage and expense form in the back of the Sales Activity Manager can help keep you profitable. (The master copy in the back is meant for copying. We recommend you affix receipts to each month's report and store them separately.)

#### Miscellaneous Tips:

- Review Quality of Prospects It is highly advisable to have an identified clear profile of both your ideal client and the minimum standards required to qualify as a new client in your practice. Review these two profiles and see if the quantity and quality of your prospects measure up.
- Review Centers of Influence & Strategic Alliance Lists One way of upgrading your clientele is to
  systematically work on developing Centers of Influence (C.O.I.) who can refer you "up" to markets
  with greater potential. These are often Attorneys, Accountants, Trust Officers or influential business
  people. Review the quantity and quality of your list. Your Monthly Work Plan should include further
  identification and contact. Use your "Will Do's" sections to prompt your contact.

Our company philosophy is "Activities Produce Results, and if you want to accomplish your goal of greater results, you need only improve the quality and quantity of your activities." This is the Law of the Farmer, "We reap what we sow," and it applies to every aspect of our life. The Sales Activity Manager™ helps you to stay focused on those precise activities that you can control and that ultimately drive your business. Here is a summary of the four-step process we have described in this guide.

- 1. FOCUS on what you want and why
- 2. PLAN on how to get there
- 3. **EXECUTE** on the plan's high-payoff activities and
- 4. MAINTAIN the process and progress over time with regular reviews



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## PROMISE

# Seven Top Reasons to be in the Financial Services Industry

## Population

The U.S. population is living longer and growing at the rate of 2.5 million per year.

## Retention

The industry values retention and provides supportive tools and systems.

## Opportunity

The opportunity to accumulate wealth and help others is abundant.

## Mentoring

Our industry is built on mentoring and helping each other succeed.

## Insurance

The "I" word is back in vogue and more important than ever.

## Stability

Financial services products are needed during all economic times.

## Entrepreneurship

The entrepreneurial spirit and freedom to be your own boss is alive and well.