

AEU Holds Safety Committee Conference in San Diego, CA

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The American Equity Underwriters, Inc. (AEU) held its semi-annual Safety Committee Conference for brokers and members of the American Longshore Mutual Association (ALMA) on April 11-12, 2012, in San Diego. The Conference, chaired by Steve Morris, Senior AEU Loss Control Manager, consisted of in-depth discussions of the latest safety issues facing shipyards, marine terminals, stevedores, and other maritime employers. Topics included Management Leadership, Facility Inspection Processes, Strain Injury Prevention, Recent OSHA Investigation Findings, and Member Safety Reviews. Presenters included Pat Killeen of Signal International, Leonardo Alaniz of Keppel AmFELS, Tim Sheppard of Cooper/T. Smith Corporation, and Patrice Hill of Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics. Guest lectures were delivered by Dr. Steve Simon, President, Culture Change Consultants, and renowned orthopedic surgeon Dr. James Thomas London. Nearly seventy maritime industry safety professionals attended this latest AEU maritime industry safety forum.



The entertainment features of the meeting began on a high note with a private party at Petco Park for a San Diego Padres baseball game and then dinner the next night at Rock Bottom in San Diego's Gas Lamp District.

The professional high note for the meeting was the release of AEU's Strain Injury Prevention Guide. The purpose of the Guide is to provide ALMA members with information on the prevention of strain injuries. Strain injuries were targeted because of their prevalence in the maritime industry, their high costs in workers' compensation insurance, medical treatment, and rehabilitation, and high cost in worker turnover and loss of productivity.

Other highlights included an entertaining presentation by Dr. Steven I. Simon on "Achieving a World Class Safety Culture" and an interesting and informative presentation by elite orthopedic surgeon Dr. James T. London, entitled "Strain-Sprain Injuries and Their Prevention". As always, the member safety reviews were especially relevant.

The shipyard and marine cargo handling sub-committees continued the practice of separate breakout sessions for specialized discussions.

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for October 11-12, 2012 in New Orleans.