

## **AEU's Maritime Safety and Claims Forum Continues to Impress**

5/17/2013

AEU's AEU Maritime Safety and Claims Forum met in Miami, Florida on April 9 – 11, 2013, and exceeded expectations among all that attended. This meeting is crafted specifically for members of the American Longshore Mutual Association, their brokers and special invitees.

The first speaker was Jim McCready, an attorney who practices worker's compensation defense and specializes in USL&H claims. Jim's presentation centered on Section 20 of the Longshore Act, also known as the "Presumption". Dr. Robert Baylis, an orthopedic physician specializing in injuries to the extremities explained the differences between an acute injury and chronic conditions. Teri Simpson, an investigator with Titan Investigative services, showed us the common techniques used in surveillance, specifically social media.

A.J. Montalbano with AEU led the forum in a discussion about decisions following losses and how making the wrong decisions might cause additional loss. The discussion focused on: the accident scene, the investigation, subrogation, reporting requirements, claims strategy, scheduled and non-scheduled injuries, light duty work and good treatment of injured workers.

The breakout sessions for marine cargo handling and shipyard were held. Both sessions focused on the fall prevention guidance document the forum is producing.

ALMA member J.B. Marine presented successful programs the company has implemented to increase safety performance.

The Forum keynote speaker was a Dupont Sustainable Solutions consultant, who discussed how conscious and unconscious actions lead to losses and how companies can implement programs to increase the likelihood of safe work.

As usual, attendee feedback from this AEU Maritime Safety and Claims Forum indicated that this was a very successful meeting. Many felt the meeting provided ideas to take back to their company to improve their safety program.