

AEU Maritime Safety and Claims Forum

11/14/2012

In order to more accurately describe the scope of this meeting, The American Equity Underwriters, Inc. Safety Committee is now known as The AEU Maritime Safety and Claims Forum. We've previously referred to this semi-annual Forum as the premier maritime safety event in the country. It just gets better and better. This event, for members of the American Longshore Mutual Association (ALMA), their brokers, and special invitees, continues to expand as the number of attendees grows. In recent years, the usual description of the most recent Forums has been "the largest yet". This October meeting is no exception, with over 100 total attendees.

Among the features and presentations, the program included Members' Safety Program Reviews, a presentation on "Executive Management Support for Safety", breakout Sessions for shipyards and stevedores, an Introduction to the AEU Maritime Industry Fall Prevention Guidance document, a presentation on "Drug Use in the Work Place – New Synthetic Drugs" by DEA Agent Dan Holmes, and a presentation of "Strain Injury Prevention" by Trevor Bardarson, Senior Vice President of Clinical Operations, Industrial Safety and Rehabilitation Institute.

The Forum also introduced a new feature, and one that is expected to expand in the future. The initial AEU Maritime Claims Forum commenced immediately upon the adjournment of the Safety Forum. On hand to meet with Members were several of the claims experts from the American Equity Risk Services' (AERS) Metairie office. AERS is now a wholly owned subsidiary of AEU.

During the Claims Forum there were presentations on "Controlling and Securing the Accident Scene" by A.J. Montalbano of AEU, "Identifying and Preserving Subrogation" by Royce Ray, AEU's Director of Subrogation, and "Neuro-Pain Management Diagnosis and How to Better Understand and Manage This Medical Care" by Dr. Kevin Bianchini. There was also an open Q & A Panel Discussion led by Will Scheffler, the AERS' Director of Claims, and Frank Moreau, also of AERS.

As usual, this Forum was the biggest and best yet. The next Forum will be held in April 2013.