

Cheeky badge extras allow CMA guests to add humour

Conference badges at the Connecticut Maritime Association's annual shipping conference identify attendees as exhibitors, sponsors or speakers.

But maybe that is not enough to capture the true personality of each conference goer? So, this year, Accuritas Global Solutions found a way around that.

The company, which provides business intelligence, analytics, data management and other services to the shipping sector, gave out badge ribbons that allowed attendees to include additional descriptions of who they are.

An exhibitor could also identify himself as a worker bee or party animal, or both, for example.

Accuritas executive vice-president and chief technology officer Jess Hurwitz, whose team handed

out 600 of the ribbons, was not just identified as a booth manager — he was also coined “trouble”.

“We did this to add some fun to the conference, and we also hoped to improve the mood and foster a more productive and worthwhile experience for the attendees in light of challenging but improving market conditions,” he said.

It is not the first time Accuritas has given some diversion to CMA.

Hurwitz says people still remember a “Rock ‘em Sock ‘em Robots” tournament” from years past, when the company was known as FleetWeather.

“We are always looking to do something unique at the conference and add fun to the event,” said the executive, who added that Accuritas may buy more ribbons for next year's gathering.



LIGHT-HEARTED: Jess Hurwitz's badge identifies him as a 'booth manager' and 'trouble'

Photo: ACCURITAS GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

Challenge to 'Blackbeard's Law' moves forward

When is a video of a pirate shipwreck in the hands of a state government agency classed as public record available to everyone?

State officials in North Carolina have answered this by passing a law that ensures videos of the wreck of the pirate ship *Queen Anne's Revenge* are considered a public record.

But US District Judge Terrence Boyle has now allowed a lawsuit to continue by videographer Rick Allen, who is challenging what is known as Blackbeard's Law, according to local newspaper Fayetteville Observer.

The lawsuit alleges that the legislation, which is named after the historic pirate who captained the *Queen Anne's Revenge*, is another kind of piracy: a violation of federal copyright laws. Officials deny the claim.

The state law makes any photos and video of a “derelict vessel or shipwreck” a part of the public record.

Blackbeard ran the *Queen Anne's Revenge* aground off North Carolina in 1718. The wreck was found in 1996 by Intersal.



FEARSOME: Blackbeard the pirate, as depicted in 1724

Photo: BENJAMIN COLE/PUBLIC DOMAIN

Mercy Ships pulls big hitters for Cargo Day Ball

The first Mercy Ships Geneva Cargo Day Ball is promising to be quite an event, with some high-profile companies already signed up to attend.

Stena Bulk, Trafigura, Barry Rogliano Salles, Fearnleys, TPT Shipbrokers, Propellor Club Port of Geneva and HR Maritime are among those participating in the fund-raising event scheduled for 18 May.

TICKETS ON SALE

Sales of tickets for the ball, to be held at the Domaine de Penthes in the grounds of Chateau Devanture, will contribute towards life-changing orthopaedic surgery onboard Mercy Ships' *Africa Mercy*, the world's largest civilian hospital ship, currently on field service in Benin, West Africa.

So far, 64 registrations have been received with expectations



GARY PARKER: Chief medical officer of oral and maxillofacial surgery on the *Africa Mercy*

Photo: RUBEN PLOMP

that 180 representatives, including from shipping and trading companies, will attend.

Places are limited and attendees must register by 27 April to participate in this very worthwhile evening.

The ball follows on from the successful Cargo Day held last October — when more than \$300,000 was raised for Mercy Ships. The next Cargo Day is planned for 4 October this year, with the hope that it becomes a fixture in the annual shipping industry calendar.

Mercy Ships tells TradeWinds that the Geneva ball is to celebrate the first Cargo Day and “invite key players in the shipping industry to connect and join the movement to make a lasting impact in Africa”.

The symbol of the event will be the propeller: “Propelling us together to make a lasting impact in Africa”.

TradeWinds is partnering

Mercy Ships for the event and details can be found at <http://mercycargoday.org/ball/>, while the Cargo Day website is: <http://www.mercyshippscargoday.org/>

Mercy Ships, which has a new and larger hospital ship being built in China and relies on volunteer crew, is also sending out invitations to The Africa Ball scheduled for 17 June at the Landmark Hotel in London.

“Our floating hospitals have been the hope on the horizon for millions of people over the years, and so much has been accomplished since we first sailed in 1978,” said Henry Clarke, chairman of Mercy Ships UK.

“Your support will enable Mercy Ships to make a huge difference to thousands more men, women and children, and will provide real hope for the future.”

Norwegian Crown Prince gives his royal backing to maritime report



Q&A SESSION: (From left) Crown Prince Haakon, Lise Kingo, head of UN Global Compact, Maria Gjolberg of DNV GL and NSA chief executive Sturla Henriksen

Photo: RODERICK CRAIG

It is not often the worlds of royalty and shipping collide.

In fact, given that shipping is responsible for carrying 90% of global trade, you could argue the industry should warrant greater royal attention, especially as more and more owners adopt the latest environmental technologies and green propulsion solutions.

So it was fitting that Norway's Crown Prince Haakon was present in Oslo last week to officially launch a new joint report by the Norwegian Shipowners' Association and classification society DNV GL designed to provide “inspiration and guidance to a maritime business in the midst of transformation”.

Lise Kingo, head of the United

Nations Global Compact, was also on hand to receive a copy of the report titled “Sustainable Development Goals: Exploring Maritime Opportunities” from NSA chief executive Sturla Henriksen and DNV GL project co-ordinator Maria Gjolberg.

SEAL OF APPROVAL

The Crown Prince gave his royal seal of approval to the initiative and stressed that “we need the private sector in all different industries to help move in the right direction” on the UN sustainability development goals.

“Knowledge is very important and a report like this [that] takes such a clear stance on where you want your members to go is quite

a contribution,” he said. “I think this report paves the way for the direction the industry will take in the future, so thank you very much.”

The report outlines five key opportunity areas for shipping, including acting on the Paris COP21 agreement, building sustainable communities and infrastructure, protecting life in the oceans, creating a sustainable future for the ocean economy and promoting responsible practices.

The launch coincided with the NSA's Global Outlook Conference, which kicked off 20 minutes later, with Norwegian prime minister Erna Solberg topping the bill at the opening session.