

**2013 National Communities Council Fall Leadership Forum
Enjoy a Chicago, Lake Michigan - Odyssey Dinner Cruise - US Destination**



Odyssey-Lake Michigan-Chicago Skyline-Photo credit: SunTimes News Group

The National Communities Council (NCC) division of the Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI) held its first annual Fall Leadership Forum on October 16-18, 2013 in Chicago, IL. While most of the event was held at the W Center on 111 West Adams, the dinner on the 17th was held on the Lake Michigan cruise ship Odyssey.



A pair of shuttle buses, compliments of Cavco Industries, whisked attendees to the event, which launched from fabled Navy Pier. A near hit - avoiding a jogging pedestrian who cut in front of the bus - brought applause on our bus for the driver.



The crisp fall night air outside melted away into the ideal comfort inside the dining deck, where dinner, hors d'oeuvres, deserts and drinks were all available in copious quantities.



The NCC event was headlined by Sam Zell, of Equity Lifestyle Properties (ELS) fame. Mr. Zell and some others skipped the cruise, but his firm was well represented by Marguerite Nader, CEO of Equity Lifestyle Properties (ELS) and others.



*Nathan Smith, SSK Communities and MHI Chairman,
Sam Zell (r) Equity Lifestyle Properties (ELS) Chairman*



Jim Clayton, Clayton Bank Chairman – Betty Whitaker, KMHI



Kevin Clayton, Clayton Homes – (l) Ryan Howertown, 21st Mortgage,

*Sam Lady, CEO UMH Properties, Chris Lindsey, VP UMH Properties
Charley Lott, Fleetwood Homes*

The NCC Fall Leadership Forum attendees read like a Who's Who of the Manufactured Home Community (MHC) world, including new and rising stars in the industry. Manufacturers, finance, insurance, legal and associations were represented.



Wally Comer, Adventure Homes

One of the recurring themes of the event was how to enhance and improve the customer experience. Specific examples were shared on proven ways to deliver ever more customer satisfaction.



Patrick Waite, ELS, Marguerite Nader, President and CEO of Equity Lifestyle Properties (ELS), Dick Ernst (r) FinmarkUSA.com



Brooke and Robert S. Coldren, founding partner of HK&C Law and MHC investors

The Odyssey boasted big screen TVs, so that major league baseball fans on board could watch the game. Photo opportunities of the Chicago Skyline from the lakeside was also an appealing attraction for some.



Richard "Dick" Jennison, MHI (l) Barry Noffsinger, CU Factory Built Lending/San Antonio Credit Union, Jenny Hodge, National Communities Council

DJ'd music and a dance floor complemented the sparkling ambiance and conversations that kept the three hour evening moving at a brisk clip.

For an inaugural event, the 2013 NCC Fall Leadership Forum was a big hit with attendees, with some 200 industry professionals coming from coast to coast. The three hours on the Lake Michigan dinner cruise ship Odyssey certainly was a fine way to cap off the second day of this informative and enjoyable gathering. ##