

Midstates Housemovers Association
52nd Annual Structural Movers Convention
March 6 – 8, 2025

2024 flew by so quickly. We are now excited to extend an invitation to attend the Midstates Housemovers Association 52nd annual convention. This year we will be traveling to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, for the first time. For those of you unfamiliar with Wisconsin, Prairie du Chien is in the southwest corner of the state right on the banks of the Mississippi River. The city is a true tourist destination, including numerous historical sites, museums, Cabelas/Bass Pro, and across the river from Casino Queen Marquette. We welcome all movers. If you know of someone in your area that might not have received an invitation, please pass this information on to them or contact Sue Morrow. She will be glad to send the information to them. We are fortunate to have two movers willing to offer yard tours this year, Egge Movers with Ken Shanahan of Lone Rock, WI, and Heritage Movers with Rusty and Matt Childs of Blue River, WI. These events will be Thursday and Friday. More information follows.

Convention “Early Bird” Registration:

We have enclosed the pre-registration form to renew your membership for 2025 and to attend our upcoming convention on March 6th – 8th. These forms **must** be postmarked by **March 1st** to get the “Early Bird” special attendance rate. The convention fees will be increased for all entries received after March 1st, 2025. There will be no refunds after March 2nd, 2025, if a cancellation is necessary. It is a requirement from the event space to provide attendance numbers prior to our event to facilitate reserving space and food. That is why we require pre-registration.

Please mail your completed pre-registration form, along with a check made out to Midstates Housemovers for the total amount due, to Sue Morrow (secretary). The mailing address can be found at the bottom of the pre-registration form. We offer the ability to pay with a credit card also. A credit card form is included with this invitation for your convenience. We accept Master Card, Visa and Discover cards. Fill out the information sheet and sign to complete the transaction. This information is kept completely confidential and safe.

Hotel Information:

We have a block of rooms reserved at the Country Inn & Suites located at 1801 Cabelas Lane in Prairie du Chien. Make your reservation by calling 608-326-5700. This block of rooms will be available until **February 17th**. The rates are \$79.00 for standard rooms (2 queen beds or 1 king bed), \$84.00 for a studio suite (king bed & sofa bed). There are also family suites (1 king bed & 1 bunk bed or king bed and 2 bunk beds). The latter is limited for those looking at a family suite. This is a pet friendly hotel with an additional fee of \$20 per pet per night. Pet-friendly rooms are limited. These rates do not include hotel room tax. All rooms include a mini fridge, microwave & coffee pot. Each reservation includes a hot breakfast and up to four wristbands to their Bear Foot Bay Waterpark. The rooms appear to be very nice and comfortable.

The hotel is located next door to Cabelas/Bass Pro. Please make your reservation today as the block of rooms is limited in both time and space. **Once again, the number at the Country Inn & Suites is 608-326-5700 and mention you are with the Midstates Housemovers Association to get this special rate.**

Convention Event Center:

This year the convention will be held at a separate facility away from the hotel. The Barn Restaurant Event Center, located at 32800 County Road K in Prairie du Chien, is a rustic unique facility that offers not only great food and service, but an amazing décor loaded with unusual and

rare items to look at. There is not one corner of the place that doesn't have something different to admire. All events other than the yard tours will be held at The Barn.

Yard Tours:

It has been 5 years since we held a convention in Wisconsin. We are extremely pleased to announce that we have arranged two-yard tours this year. On Thursday, March 6th, we are welcomed to the yard of Egge Movers by Ken Shanahan and his crew. They are located at 920 N. Prairie Street in Lone Rock, WI. This is approximately 58 miles from Prairie du Chien. Ryan Arpan of Midwest House Movers, Madison, SD, will be giving a demonstration of the jack slides they manufacture. Lunch will be provided.

On Friday, March 7th, we will go to Heritage Movers with Rusty and Matt Childs at 211 S. East Street in Blue River, WI. Blue River is approximately 35 miles from Prairie du Chien. Lunch will be provided. Demonstrations will be on site.

Both companies are well established and have been members of the Midstates Housemovers Association for many years. We are anxious to see their equipment and learn more about these two companies.

Seminars & Demonstrations:

This year we have some educational seminars to offer. One is with OECS (OSHA/Environmental Compliance Systems) about creating a safety culture in your business.

Also, as in years past, we see that team building activities (also known as building games) are popular. Everyone always looks forward to the challenge of constructing an item as a team and then testing its strength. This year we are offering a new test of ability to build together. Come see what we have and join in the fun.

Vendors:

The vendor fee is \$50 per table or space in the display area. Outside displays are free of charge. The housemoving industry is always changing and vendors offer tools and materials to meet those needs. The first thing everyone wants to do when they arrive at the convention, after checking in with Sue at the registration table, is to see who the vendors are and discover what things they brought to display. Some attendees travel from convention to convention just to see particular vendors or see certain vendors they have visited in the past to pick up on items they remember from a previous convention. We are hopeful of adding new vendors. So, vendors be sure and send in your registration form with the appropriate fee by March 1st so we can get you set up for the convention and reserve your space(s). Come ready to sell, sell, sell.

Scholarships:

Every year we offer 1 to 4 scholarships to people that meet the necessary requirements established by the organization Board of Directors. We are including a copy of requirements and an application. A copy of these items is also available on our website if more is needed. **All** applications must be postmarked by **March 1st, 2025**. Mail your application, required transcripts and a current photograph to:

Midstates Housemovers Association
P.O. Box 64
Jackson, NE 68743

An annual event that generates funds for these scholarships is the raffle drawing at the convention. Raffle tickets are sold towards some fantastic items being offered to win. If you would like to donate a raffle item, please contact Matt Sundeen (chairman of the scholarship committee) at 651-592-8676 or Ken Shanahan (co-chairman) at 608-606-1567. We also accept monetary donations, if that is the preferred manner.

Award Applications:

We have included a copy of our award categories and one award application blank. You may notice we have changed some of the categories for awards this year. We now offer an historic award (for the most historic or oldest structure moved of historic significance) and a Good Samaritan award (must be nominated by someone other than the award winner). These both are positive additions to the list of categories we offer. Award applications must be submitted to Matt Sundeen by

February 23, 2025. Matt's information is on the award application. Enter as many times in various categories as you like since each company can only win one award. Make copies of the award application to register your information in "each category". Award applications will not be accepted at the convention.

As in years past, we are offering an "Incentive for New Members". This is a one-time reduction in the primary convention cost entry fee of \$50 for any **new** company registering. Primary entry fee is \$125 so this would make the entry fee \$ 75 plus \$100 membership for a total of \$175 instead of \$225. There would still be a fee of \$115 for each additional adult attending with the primary attendee. If you know of anyone new to the housemoving industry, please pass this information on to them or contact Sue Morrow and she will forward the information on to them.

We want to emphasize how important early registration is to plan a successful convention. It is not only beneficial to us for preplanning events but also to you by saving you some money.

Don't hesitate. Send your registration today. Also get your award applications to Matt Sundeen right away. This should be a fantastic convention! Don't miss it.