



One of the Largest Crane Companies in the U.S.



“Though I have no research, I would guess we are the largest woman-owned and operated crane company in the country.”

— Donna Stevenson
President and Founder

Stevenson Crane got its start in 1989. “We had one crane parked in our driveway,” Donna Stevenson, president and founder of the company says. “Now we have over 1,000 pieces of equipment, two locations, and about 70,000 square feet of office/warehouse space. We employ 250 people and we are all local 150 operating engineers. We also have local 136 riggers since we started our rigging division.”

She notes that they chose Illinois as their business location since this is where they have been their whole lives. “Our kids were born here,” Donna says. “We like the ethics and morals of the midwestern people. People around the state of Illinois are great people to work with and have

that great solid work ethic. There are a lot of opportunities here and we are in a good spot in the country to move into Indiana, Wisconsin, and other midwestern states.”

Business is going well for the company. Specialty pieces of equipment have helped them to grow far beyond cranes. “We are investing in niche equipment,” Donna says. “We just purchased a 70,000 lb. Manitou telescopic forklift. It’s the only one of its kind in existence in the world and we are getting the first one. We try to search out equipment that will help people with different kinds of jobs or make things more simple and safe on the job. We are experiencing a great demand driven by the industrial revitalization in Illinois and the Midwest. These pieces besides all of our different types of cranes are really helping us to move ahead.”

Recently, the company has expanded into rigging services and heavy haul. This means they are machinery movers. “We have hired riggers from Local 136 and we are now in the Heavy Haul business,” Donna says. “We are the only Illinois based company to have the latest rigging/heavy haul equipment on premise, with immediate access enabling us to offer cost effective solutions with immediate response.”

The company has purchased Goldhofer self-propelled modular trailers, along with a transporter, hydraulic gantries, Hoist FR lift trucks, and more to support this rigging

business. “We went into it thinking we need to have more than anyone else offers,” Donna says. “We can save money by eliminating the need to have things shipped in. These professional riggers can move it off the train car and put it on the Goldhofer trailer.”

Another new development for Stevenson Crane is becoming a Link Belt Crane Dealer. “We are excited about having been appointed the dealer for our area,” Donna says. “We have an extensive fully stocked parts department to support our customers’ equipment as well as our own, and a very comprehensive service department. We have over 20 mechanics working here with fully equipped mechanics’ trucks. All are certified Local 150 mechanics and are extremely knowledgeable. We are able to take care of our customers and save them downtime. If you’re doing a job and something breaks, Stevenson Crane will get right on it 24/7.”

Stevenson Crane is one of the largest crane companies in the U.S. “Though I have no research, I would guess we are the largest woman-owned and operated crane company in the country,” Donna says proudly. “I oversee the day to day operations, the safety department, the mechanics, the union workers, our financial condition, and any new purchases we need. I have wonderful people who work here with us, and I just oversee everything.”

“I don’t think people realize what a great resource the Illinois Chamber is. They are involved in infrastructure and trying to get needed legislation through. Let’s face it, our bridges are crumbling in this state. I feel like the Chamber really gets it and is trying to do the best for the people in the State of Illinois. Which means work for the companies that are stationed here.”

