

Book Industry Charitable Foundation Announces New Board Members

New Members Bring Wealth of Book Industry Knowledge and Experience

ANN ARBOR, MI (July 8, 2013) The Book Industry Charitable Foundation (Binc) announced the addition of three new board members to its 14-member board. Matthew Gildea, Lori Tucker-Sullivan and Matt Norcross bring decades of experience in the book industry and firsthand knowledge of the needs of booksellers.

Before joining Borders as a buyer in 1993, Matt Gildea spent the first ten years of his career working in independent bookstores. At Borders, he moved into management roles and helped lead several key initiatives, including the introduction of Category Management and helping develop business processes for a new IT system. In 2006, Matt joined Hastings Entertainment, a 150 store regional chain that offered a wide selection of multimedia product and, in 2010, joined Joseph Beth Booksellers in order to become a part of the management team charged with helping the company go through a financial restructuring, which was completed in early 2011.

“I believe that booksellers are as important to our cultural communities as books and reading,” said Matthew Gildea. “They are frequently our guides and mentors. And like all who labor for love, they are at times at risk financially and can be feel themselves to be without the support of the community they serve. The Binc Foundation, by providing short-term assistance in emergency situations, solves this problem with respect and dignity. And while that assistance to an individual bookseller can echo into the larger cultural community, it's what we can do for the bookseller who may feel there is no solution to a crisis that matters most to me.”

Lori Tucker-Sullivan is the Executive Director of the Independent Booksellers Consortium, Inc. (IBC), a position she has held since 1998. The organization is comprised of 25 large independent bookstores throughout the country. Prior to joining IBC, Lori was the Marketing Director at the corporate office of Little Professor Bookstores, a bookstore franchise operation. She holds a MFA in Creative Writing from Spalding University and has also worked as a freelance writer, retail marketing consultant, and, for ten years, was the Community Relations Director for the Ann Arbor News. She is a former board member of Washtenaw Literacy, a founding board member of the Ann Arbor Book Festival and lives in Dexter, Michigan with her two children.

Matt Norcross is the owner of McLean & Eakin Booksellers along with his wife, Jessilynn Norcross. Matt comes from a long line of retailers, and in 1992, when his mother, Julie Norcross, opened McLean & Eakin Booksellers, his bookselling career began. Having been at the store full-time since 2003, Matt and his wife took ownership at the beginning of 2010. Matt has served on the Board of Directors of the Great Lakes Independent Booksellers Association since 2005, including terms as treasurer and, most recently, as vice president. He has also served on ABA's Booksellers Advisory Council. Outside of bookselling Matt is passionate about travel and is an avid mountain biker and snowboarder.

“On behalf of the Binc Foundation, I want to welcome Lori Tucker-Sullivan, Matt Norcross and Matthew Gildea to our Binc Foundation Board of Directors,” said Lisa Smola-Hollo, President, Binc Foundation. “Lori, Matt, and Matthew bring more than twenty years of book industry knowledge with them to the Foundation. We are looking forward to their partnership and ideas into how the Foundation can further expand its assistance to the book industry!”

Norcross, Tucker-Sullivan and Gildea began serving earlier this year.

About Book Industry Charitable (Binc) Foundation

The Book Industry Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that coordinates charitable programs to strengthen the bookselling community. Established in 1996, as the Borders Group Foundation the core program provides assistance to bookstore employees who have a demonstrated financial need arising from severe hardship and/or emergency circumstances. Since its inception, the organization has provided over \$5 million in charitable assistance.

In 2011, when Borders and Waldenbooks stores closed, the Foundation reinvented itself and expanded its mission. The Foundation increased the reach from former Borders employees and their families to all employees in the book industry, starting with book retailers. It is our vision to be the cornerstone of a caring community of book people.

Support for the Foundation’s programs and services come primarily from booksellers. Additional information can be found at www.bincfoundation.org.