

Meet the 2010 Midwest Booksellers Association BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The combined book industry experience of our MBA Board of Directors is a tremendous asset to our association, and we thank these booksellers and publishers wholeheartedly for the time and energy they will contribute on behalf of our members. You are always welcome to contact these MBA Board members with any comments, suggestions, and questions you may have for them. They look forward to hearing from you!

Chris Livingston, MBA President, owner of The Book Shelf, Winona, MN, joined the MBA Board in 2006 and began his second term in 2009. Chris came to bookselling through a circuitous route. He worked for Circuit City in various positions, including Operations, Store, and Regional Management. He has also worked in electronics manufacturing and mass media advertising. After relocating to Winona, MN, with his wife, Chris opened The Book Shelf in 2002 and has recently moved the store to a new location next to the Blue Heron Coffeehouse. The store is a general interest new and used bookstore featuring a beautifully remodeled children's books section and text books for the college and university in town. Chris serves actively in his local Chamber of Commerce and volunteers as the Finance Director at the Great River Shakespeare Festival. He is also MBA's representative to ABA's Bookseller Advisory Council through June 2012. Contact Chris at store@bookshelfwinona.com.

Tripp Ryder, MBA Vice President, has been a bookseller for 34 years. She began her career at Fine Print Books in Northfield, MN, serving as manager for her last two years there. She has been at the Carleton College Bookstore in Northfield for the last 24 years. In her position as General Books Manager she oversees the trade department, arranges author events, and works with Carleton faculty and departments on campus events and special projects. In addition, Tripp shares the buying responsibilities for the St. Olaf College Bookstore and River City Books, which is the Carleton-owned and operated independent bookstore in downtown Northfield. Tripp has served on the National Association of College Stores General Books Committee, chairing the committee her last year. She has been on the board of the Northfield League of Women Voters, volunteers regularly with the Northfield Downtown Development Corporation, and actively participates in local and regional political campaigns. Tripp is starting her first term on the MBA Board of Directors. Contact Tripp at tryder@carleton.edu.

Vicki Erwin, MBA Secretary, has been co-owner of Main Street Books in St Charles Mo for over a year, but she has been a bookseller at CityBooks, children's book buyer and manager at Booksource, and district sales manager at Scholastic over the past 15+ years. She has spent her entire book career in the Midwest and is a fierce supporter of books, independent bookstores and the region. Vicki is in her first term on the MBA Board and will serve through 2010. Contact Vicki at msbstchas@sbcglobal.net.

Carl Wichman, MBA Treasurer, is the Book Department Manager for the NDSU Bookstore at North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND, He is in his second term on the MBA Board and will serve through 2010. Carl says, "I've been in the book business in one form or another since 1978 (32 years!). I started as a receiving clerk at the local B.Dalton (10 years, left as a senior sales clerk), then spent 6 years with Prairie House Book Wholesalers (we distributed regional small press books), then 7 years with Media Play (Tradebook Manager/Assistant Store Manager) and

finally 5 years with the Varsity Mart at NDSU in Fargo. I collect book ties and Flintstone ties, odd little fact!" Contact Carl at carl.wichman@ndsu.edu.

Sarah Bagby, MBA Board member, began her second term on the MBA Board in 2009. She has been the managing partner of Watermark Books & Café in Wichita, KS, for over 25 years. Watermark Books is general interest bookstore that is a fixture in the community, hosting many author and special events throughout the year. The store also includes a café which serves made-from-scratch good food. A native of Wichita, Sarah serves on the Board of Directors for Arts Partners and is a member of the Library Foundation Board. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Wichita Public Library and on the Advisory Board for Wichita State University's Center for Women Studies. She is very active in the community, in leadership programs, and was selected to participate in Leadership Wichita. Sarah enjoys running marathons and spending time with her husband and daughter. She was also MBA's representative to ABA's Bookseller Advisory Council 2007-2009. Contact Sarah at sarah.bagby@watermarkbooks.com.

Kathy Borkowski, MBA Board member, began her first term on the MBA Board in 2010. She has been the Director of the Wisconsin Historical Society Press for 5 years. The Wisconsin Historical Society Press publishes titles on Wisconsin history and culture for both general readers and children. The Press is Wisconsin's oldest publisher (established in 1855) and also partners with local organizations promoting books such as the Wisconsin Book Festival and the Wisconsin Center for the Book. Prior to her current position, Kathy worked for 9 years as the Manager of Research at American Girl, publisher of historical fiction books for young readers. Kathy is starting her first term on the MBA Board of Directors. Contact Kathy at kathy.borkowski@wisconsinhistory.org.

Jim Nichols, MBA Board member, is Vice President, Sales for Consortium Book Sales & Distribution, a trade distributor representing over 100 independent book publishers from the U.S., Canada, and Europe. Jim has 15 years of publishing experience; before joining Consortium in 2001, he was Sales Manager for Kodansha in New York and in Tokyo. Jim will be on the MBA Board through 2010. You can contact him at jnichols@cbsd.com.