



For Immediate Release
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NEIBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEVE FISCHER TO RETIRE

CAMBRIDGE, MA, October 19, 2017

Steve Fischer, executive director of the New England Independent Booksellers Association (NEIBA), has given notice of his retirement to the organization's board of directors. Fischer, who has been in the position since 2006, will remain as executive director until a replacement has been found and a smooth transition is in place.

"While we all wholeheartedly wish Steve well in his upcoming retirement, he leaves very large shoes to fill," said Laura Cummings, president of the Board. "His knowledge, energy and experience have been invaluable to the organization and will be sorely missed."

NEIBA is the non-profit trade association for the retail book industry promoting independent bookselling in New England and New York. Serving independent booksellers since 1973, NEIBA has over 300 members representing more than 200 bookstores.

In a letter to the NEIBA Board of Directors, Fischer wrote, "My work at NEIBA has been the most gratifying of anything I've done in my 47 year career. I am in awe of the professionalism, smarts and hard work that our independent booksellers do on behalf of their authors and communities. Without them my work here could never have happened."

Fischer began his publishing career right out of college, working in the basement stockroom of the Vermont Bookshop in Middlebury, Vermont. He has been a fixture at bookstores ever since, including sales positions at Harper & Row and HarperCollins, where he worked as a rep to independent stores in both the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, in international sales, and as National Accounts Manager in charge of Barnes & Noble.

During his tenure at NEIBA, Fischer created the organization's popular "All About the Books" events, implemented NEIBA's Shop Local Grants and Store Peer Reviews, restructured the association's Holiday Catalog and reinvigorated the annual Fall Show and Conference.

Fischer's plans will certainly include more time on his treasured Martha's Vineyard with his partner Paul and their families, continuing on the Advisory Panel of the Martha's Vineyard Book Festival, more travel, and, of course, working through the pile of ARCs scattered in every room of his house.

The NEIBA Board has appointed a search committee to find his successor.

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