



PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Sexual Minorities Roundtable members vote on proposed bylaws during a meeting Jan. 9

Oregon! for the past five years.

Buckwalter has worked with the city of Portland and Multnomah County to institute policies that respect the gender identity rights of all citizens. As past co-chair of the Sexual Minorities Roundtable, she also collaborated with the community and law enforcement officials to address issues of bias crimes and public safety.

"Lori has diligently and consistently fought for the rights of all Portlanders," Mayor Vera Katz said. "She was instrumental in Portland's recent move to provide greater protections against discrimination based on gender identity. Her dignity, determination and quiet commitment to civil rights is something we can all look to as an example."

PEER OUTREACH GROUP REFUSES TO WORK WITH MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Peer outreach workers at the Positive Community Project announced that they are ending their six-year relationship with the Multnomah County Health Department.

The group claims the agency has ignored community concerns about HIV names reporting and is working in collusion with the Oregon Health Division. The eight-member grassroots outreach and advocacy organization struggled with the decision because most of its financial support comes from Ryan White CARE Act funds that are managed by the county.

"In his recent strike on HIV medications, Steve Henson has put his life on the line over this issue affecting the lives of so many HIV-positive Oregonians," said Jack Cox, an organizer and worker at the Positive Community Project. "We can't do less as an organization."

Henson, an AIDS activist from North Bend, issued a statement after the state's announcement in December to implement a names reporting system for people who are HIV-positive, saying he will forgo all anti-retroviral medications in protest. He said he will continue to do so until the policy is changed.

Reporting of those testing positive for HIV will begin in July. Anonymous testing will continue to be available throughout the state.

The group is urging all people of conscience to distance themselves from working or volun-

teering with organizations supporting names reporting. "We can't maintain our credibility with the communities we serve and remain in the pay of Multnomah County, which has violated all the community processes around this issue and told frightened people that their fears are not real," Cox said.

The Positive Community Project is a peer consortium of diverse outreach and advocacy workers including African Americans, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Latino/Chicanos, Native Americans, women, youth, sex-industry workers, injection drug users and incarcerated, rural, urban, gay and straight people. Since 1995, its goal has been to provide information and advocacy to HIV-infected people and affected communities.

ROUNDTABLE ELECTS CO-CHAIR, DEBATES BYLAWS

The Portland Police Bureau's Sexual Minorities Roundtable elected longtime member Roni Lang as its new co-chair during a meeting Jan. 9. Norm Costa and Assistant Chief Mark Paresi will continue to serve as the other co-chairs.

Frederick B. Hayes II, who was also on the ballot for co-chair, withdrew from the election just before the meeting. He did not attend because of illness. Hayes said he hopes to address the group during its February meeting to explain his change of heart.

The roundtable, a monthly gathering of sexual minorities and members of the police bureau, provides an opportunity for exchange of information, concerns and suggestions. The group meets the second Tuesday of each month.

At issue during the January meeting was the adoption of new bylaws. Since its inception almost 10 years ago, the roundtable has operated without any formal rules. But with an increased interest in the group, spurred on by last fall's controversy concerning Chief Mark Kroeker's 10-year-old taped comments about homosexuals, a committee was convened to draft new bylaws.

The discussion will continue during the next roundtable meeting from noon to 1:30 p.m. Feb. 13 at the Justice Center, 1111 S.W. Second Ave. All are welcome.

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