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In his new capacity, Bruner will be accessing statewide need, doing disaster preparedness work, raising money and recruiting volunteers. According to Bruner, each chapter will still be led by its local boards and executive director, who are most familiar with the needs of the individual groups.

Bruner wanted to remind everyone that blood reserves run low in summer months and that the Red Cross needs donations.

He continues to be aware of the Food and Drug Administration's ban on blood from men who have sex with men and has raised the issue with the national organization's new CEO, Mark Everson. "I stood up in front of 300 people and asked him to lean on the FDA to change the policy, and that's the kind of thing I'm going to continue to do at every opportunity."

Bruner's next chance will arise in the fall, when he will meet with other regional leaders at a meeting in Chicago.

New Leadership at Feminist Bookstore

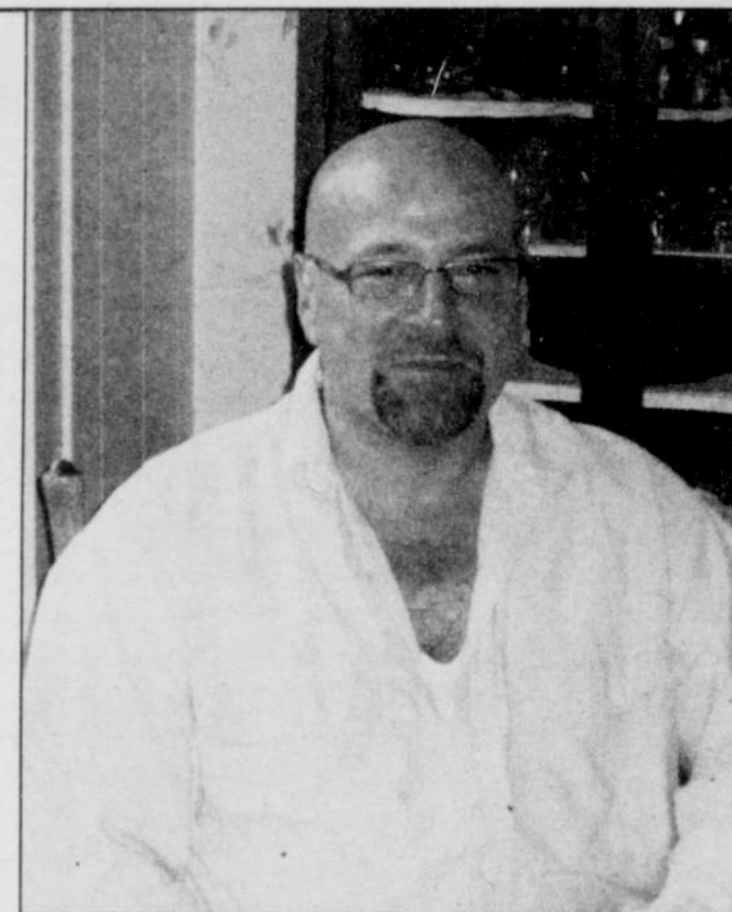
In Other Words Women's Books and Resources is gaining a store manager and a program director in the wake of Sue Burns' resignation after six years as the store's main staff person.

As Burns moves on to invest more time in her study of plant medicine, Amara Perez will move into the role of program director, while Rebecca Luxenberg will take over as store manager.

Perez, who is a lesbian, comes to In Other Words from Sisters in Action for Power, a community organization focused on low-income women and girls of color, where she served as executive director. She also helped found Happy Ours, an organization whose mission is to build the visibility, community participation and collective leadership of lesbians of color.

Luxenberg, who identifies as queer, has worked as co-manager and textbook manager at the bookstore. She started out as a volunteer two years ago, when she moved to Portland from Indiana.

"I am confident in the ability, integrity and vision of these two women who will lead IOW to the next level," said Burns via e-mail. "I won't be



Don Mueller, chairman of the Portland metro chapter of Lutherans Concerned/North America, noted an incremental step for gay equality.

a stranger, though. Look for me on a regular volunteer shift, and I will continue to serve my feminist community as an IOW board member."

Lutherans Take Partial Step Forward

At the end of a week of music, worship, global outreach and procedural wrangling, the nation's largest Lutheran denomination voted Aug. 11 to advise local bishops not to expel partnered gay clergy—at least for the next two years.

The advisory resolution "prays, urges and encourages" local bishops "to refrain from or demonstrate restraint in disciplining [clergy] who are in a mutual, chaste and faithful committed same-gender relationship." Approved by 56 percent on the last day of the Chicago assembly, it followed rejection of efforts to eliminate formal policies prohibiting partnered clergy in the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Instead, the assembly referred recommendations for full equality to a sexuality task force. Twenty-three of the church's 65 regional synods, including Oregon, southwest Washington and northwest Washington, had voted to seek elimination of policies permitting only celibate gay clergy.

The resolution was promoted by Lutherans Concerned/North America, the largest Lutheran gay rights advocacy group, as a fallback if the fight for immediate full equality failed. Now, where bishops are sympathetic or neutral, local congrega-

tions can select partnered clergy, and pastors who've had to keep their relationship a secret can come out. But conservative opposition ensures that the struggle will stay on the agenda when the task force reports back in two years. The resolution recognized the split, noting that it came "in an effort to continue as a church in moral deliberation without further strife and pain to its members."

Emily Eastwood, executive director of Lutherans Concerned/North America, said: "Today this church moved one giant step from the punitive



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Sue Burns of In Other Words has passed the torch to Amara Perez (left) and Rebecca Luxenberg.