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Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund elects new chair, vice chair

South Carolina's Chris Ray
 new treasurer

by Dave DeCicco

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At its November meeting in Seattle, the board of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund elected new officers, including Brian A. Johnson of Virginia as chair and Paul W. Horning II of Atlanta as vice chair. South Carolinian Chris Ray was elected as treasurer and Janine Brunjes of Texas was elected to her second term as secretary.

South Carolina residents should be familiar with Ray. He purchased Fastco Threaded Products, Inc. in 2003 and immediately redirected the activities of the company resulting in year-to-date sales increases of 46 percent and net profit increases of 4,250 percent. Since 1999, he has focused his efforts on several gay and lesbian related issues — primarily in the area of fundraising. In 2000, at the request of S.C.



Clockwise: Brian Johnson will serve as the Victory Fund's new chair, along with Paul Horning as vice chair and Chris Ray as treasurer.

Governor Jim Hodges, he led the initiative that raised over \$10,000 in support of former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean.

Brian Johnson, who has served on the board since 2000 including one term as treasurer, is a retired chief financial officer of Resource Consultants, Inc., a northern Virginia-based government services provider. Johnson has an extensive history of leadership within and beyond the LGBT community. He is a member of Whitman-Walker Clinic's audit committee, a member of the National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC) and Equality Virginia. He was founding co-chair of the Bridge Builders Fund, a board member and treasurer of the Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry and past president of the American University Alumni Association. Johnson is also a former board member and treasurer of the Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute, the nonprofit sister organization to the Victory Fund.



"With vast experience in the private sector and a longstanding commitment to Victory and the LGBT community, Brian is the ideal choice to

lead a revitalized board of 36 leaders from across the United States," said Chuck Wolfe, president and CEO of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and Leadership Institute.

Paul Horning is a senior vice president at Smith Barney in Atlanta and has served on the board of Victory Fund since 1997, including three terms as fundraising chair. He is an active member of the Atlanta LGBT leadership community, serving as a member of Project Open Hand's Atlanta advisory board, a founding member of the Democratic National Committee's Gay & Lesbian Leadership Council and a member of HRC's board of governors.

Johnson and Horning succeed board co-chairs Cindy L. Abel of Atlanta and Scott Widmeyer of New York.

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