

**NEA DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
July 5 Caucus Meeting 9:30 a.m.**

**Meet Mr. Jess Durfee, Chair, San Diego Democratic
Executive Committee**

Featured Speaker: ROBERT H. GLEASON



Robert Gleason is the Secretary of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, a national political organization based in Washington, D.C. The Victory Fund identifies, trains, and elects openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender leaders to all levels of office, in every corner of America.

In his professional career, Robert is the Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel of San Diego based Evans Hotels, where he is responsible for all financial accounting, audit, information technology, and legal issues. In addition, he serves as an adjunct faculty member in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management at San Diego State University, teaching *Hospitality Law and Policy*.

Robert is a long-time San Diegan, and is heavily involved in community and philanthropic activities, primarily in the areas of arts and culture, electoral politics, and civil rights. He received an A.B. in Economics from Princeton University and a J.D. (summa cum laude) from the University of San Diego School of Law. He is licensed to practice law in California and the District of Columbia and is a licensed California real estate broker.

Robert is the former Chair of the San Diego LGBT Community Center and a co-founder and Chair of the San Diego LGBT Community Leadership Council, an organization comprised of

over forty organizations in the LGBT and allied communities. He was the co-founder and co-chair of San Diego's highly successful inaugural Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast in 2009. He has been a member of the LGBT Advisory Boards for San Diego Mayor Dick Murphy and Congressman Bob Filner (D-CA).

Robert serves as a founding Director and Chief Financial Officer of the Rob Benzon Foundation, a community-based memorial foundation providing direct support to individuals with urgent financial needs.