



Greetings Colleagues, my name is Gerri Franco and I am pleased to announce my candidacy for NEA Director.

As with many of you, little did I know all those years ago, that volunteering to become my building's Association Representative would result in such a positive change in my professional and personal life. I believe that I have always had the desire to help others and stand up for those who I feel are being treated unjustly. However, the support and training that I have received from my NEA "family", has just served to help me become a more informed and effective leader. I have also had the privilege and opportunity to serve in various local, regional and state positions. I am currently a member of the Essential Leadership Cadre where I am receiving even more valuable insight into becoming a better leader.

Current times are really tough for educators. We are combating tough economic times, which have placed us in a position of having to defend our profession. These challenges are impacting our ability to provide for both students and families. I welcome the opportunity to serve as your spokesperson and "give back" to my profession and the NEA: the organization that has given me so much.