

## MARK NORBERG FOR NEA PRESIDENT

### CANDIDATE STATEMENT

After a 20-year career at the L.A. Times, I left to pursue my passion for teaching. My work in the corporate world has given me a unique appreciation for public education – and the power of unions. But we are at a crossroads. Our members have suffered decades of inadequate compensation, exploding class sizes, and insufficient staffing and funding. The reasons behind this are very clear: we have put the responsibility for solving all of these problems on our local unions. When it comes to these problems -- and especially those faced by institutions of higher education -- we must recognize that our local unions will never solve them. This is because these problems are not local problems. These problems are deep and systemic. As such, they will only be solved at the federal level. We must demand that our national union stop standing on the sidelines and start mobilizing us nationally. The good news is that we are eminently suited to do just that: we are embedded in every neighborhood, community, city, and state from coast to coast -- and as some of society's most trusted members. As president, I will immediately create a "continental congress" of state leaders to develop a national gameplan to use our incredible organizing infrastructure to win the kind of K-12 and higher education system the working class of America deserves.