

## **Candidate for Director**

### **Michael Lawrence, EA**

#### **Biography**

Until recently, I owned and operated a small farm apiary and raised hay. I began preparing taxes as a seasonal addition to my income in 1978. I became an enrolled agent in 2005 and joined NAEA that same year. I became an NTPI Fellow in 2009 and attended SSLA in 2013. I have been active at the local chapter, Affiliate, and National levels ever since joining, having held every Board position, except Treasurer for NYSSEA and served as GR committee Chair for five years at which time I developed and instituted the annual Legislative Day program in NY which began as my SSLA project. I have also served on the NAEA GR committee and currently serve as a member of the Affiliate Counsel. I've been attending the annual membership meetings and Board meetings since 2007. I have also regularly attended the NAEA Fly-In and APEX meetings.

#### **Statement of Goals**

My goal as a Director for NAEA is to improve the transparency and accountability of the NAEA Board to the members. Transparency in the decision-making process and our finances. Accountability to the members for those decisions and the use of our resources such as the time of our volunteers and staff as well as our financial resources.

#### **What needs to change at NAEA and how would you contribute to that change?**

NAEA professes to use "knowledge-based decision making", but there isn't any evidence that they actually do. Programs such as Educate America and the jobs fair booth, are put to together with no basis for determining how success would be measured, data on the program is not presented to the members or the Board at any Board meeting, we don't know how much they cost, what resources have been used, how many people have become EA's, and members as a result of the program. The recent debacle with our member database, website, and Affiliate dues payments is an instance where knowledge-based decision making was sorely lacking. As a Director, I would change this practice by requiring data, expressed in numbers, before instituting any program so that the Board could make decisions based upon knowledge.