Born in Chicago, Illinois, Michael moved to Temple City the day before his sixth birthday in 1968. He attended Longden Elementary, Oak Avenue Intermediate and graduated from Temple City High School in 1980. After receiving his Associate of Arts Degree from Pasadena City College, he transferred to California State University Los Angeles where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Michael has worked as an accountant in non-profit retirement communities for over 30 years. His first community was California Christian Home in Rosemead where he met his wife of 28 years Emma. They were married at the San Gabriel Mission and had their reception at the Women’s Club of Temple City. They have three daughters, Corine age 27, Christine age 24 and Angelica age 21 who all attended and graduated from Temple City High School.

Michael remembers his first year in Temple City as a first grader that someone from the Camelia Festival came to his classroom to see who’d be interested in being in that year’s royal court. Having never heard of such a thing and being a very shy child, he did not sign-up that first year. But he did walk in the parade with his Temple City National Little League Teams for several years after that. He probably attended every Camellia Festival as a kid always going home with a box of dishes and glassware from the dime toss and a bag of stuffed animals won at the basketball free throw and other games.

When Michael’s girls started playing softball at Temple City American Little League he again walked in the parade as a coach in 2008. In 2009 when he and a group of other parents started Temple City Amateur Softball Association, he proudly walked with the league as their
Treasurer in their first parade and volunteered at a game booth that the league had all weekend. The next few years while running the league as president he and other parents from the league did various food booths at the Camellia Festival to help raise money for the new league. Once his girls were done playing softball at Live Oak Park he began volunteering as a ticket and money runner for the ticket booths and in 2014 became a member of the Camellia Festival Executive Board as the Carnival Chairman.

Most if not all of his friends in Temple City have come from his and especially Emma’s volunteering at many school and city functions throughout the years. Having worked in non-profit organizations, Michael has appreciated the value of volunteering and the joy of helping others and looks forward to being the General Chair for the 76th Temple City Camellia Festival.