

## **About the Author – David Neithamer**

David Neithamer grew up in St. Petersburg, Florida and graduated valedictorian from Lakewood High School in 1980. He attended Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, where he graduated Cum Laude with a B.S. degree in Chemistry in 1984. During this time at Rhodes he met and later married his college sweetheart, Elizabeth Martin (an Austin descendant). He then attended Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Organometallic Chemistry specializing in the early transition metals, after which he began working for the Dow Chemical Company in Midland, Michigan in their Central Research Labs in 1989. During his 29 year career with Dow, David worked on a variety project areas including homogeneous, slurry, and gas phase catalyst and co-catalyst development for polyethylene polymerization, homogeneous hydroformylation catalysis, Lewis acid catalyst development, renewable feedstocks catalysis, and led their high throughput catalysis lab for six years, retiring in 2018 as a Principle Research Scientist. In addition to his scientific career, David enjoyed his other passions coaching soccer and travel soccer teams for 17 years and using his research training to investigate his family genealogy. He became involved in AFAOA due to his wife Elizabeth, and her parents, long time active members Gay and Alice Austin Martin. Although scientifically trained, he did not understand much about the different types of DNA tests and what they could or could not tell you about your ancestry. Becoming self-taught in this area, he gave several talks at the 2018 AFAOA conference in Philadelphia on DNA. The eight DNA articles are a written summation of these talks.