

Region 5 Member Spotlight - May 2022

Region 5 has chosen David Griffith, SR/WA of Chapter 21 as the Member Spotlight for May 2022. David works as a Real Estate Agent Lead for American Electric Power. He is responsible for managing owned property which includes the purchasing, selling, leasing, providing Right of Entry, granting easements, and anything else associated with activities on owned property. These activities can occur for the interest of the power company for office buildings, electric substations, telecom sites, storage areas and some rights of ways. David's office is located in Charleston, West Virginia. He has been primarily working in southern West Virginia and western Virginia and sometimes in eastern Kentucky.

David has been a member for 22 years. He heard about IRWA shortly after being hired as a WVDOH relocation agent by his boss, Steve Rabel. Steve told me I should consider joining the organization because it would be good for my career, he was right! David has not has a bad experience with the IRWA. He has been fortunate enough to attend most Chapter 21 social events and meetings, many Region 5 Spring and Fall Forums, several Annual International Education Conferences, committee member of the IPDC and IEUC and co-hosted the 2013 Annual International Education Conference with past International President and Chapter 21 member Ron Williams. All great experiences.

When we asked David what he has learned since being a member of IRWA he stated "more things than I can count." The biggest thing to him is the friends and connections that he has made through the years by attending different events. He knows that if he has a question or challenging situation he can contact someone with another utility company or highway department and see if they have ever faced a similar challenge. Within a couple calls, if not the first one, David will find someone that has seen or been involved with a similar situation and they are happy to share their experience with me and help me to achieve a positive outcome for my situation. David has been told by several people, which are not IRWA members, that the IRWA is "nothing more than a social organization". He tells them they are correct. David then informs them that my "social organization" has allowed him to grow in his profession both educationally and socially. David have earned three nationally recognized designations that will assist in securing a position, if needed, with one of several nationally recognized firms or many other utilities or state road programs and more friends than he can count.

David owns a ranch style brick home on approximately 95 acres in the suburbs of Sissonville WV (out in the country). In the spring, summer and fall he spends a lot of time gardening, cutting grass, small rehab projects, cleaning up trash that flows downstream along the creek and walking in the woods. David also spends a lot of time sitting on the rear deck watching the local wildlife, birds, deer, turkey, occasional coyote and others play and feed in the approximate eight cleared acres. He has been known to fire up one of my deck heaters as well and sit on the deck in the winter time. When it is too cold to sit outside or dark David enjoys watching movies or television series on one of the streaming services my son has set up for me.

