

DRIP POINTS



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 1 FALL 1990

In this issue of "*DRIP POINTS*":

- "MESSAGES" from Board members
 - Greetings from the new President
... *Eric Halpin*
 - Greetings from the new Exec.
... *Bernie Warren*
 - "Message to the Lone Star Club"
... *Kevin Lawless*
- Minutes of the Eighteenth General Meeting of the NIA
- List of **SHOW AWARDS** presented at the 21st NIA National in Portland Oregon
- 1990-92 NIA Officers and Board

If you have items of interest to NIA members,
send them to: *DRIP POINTS* c/o Don Reinke
2513 Flintridge Pl., Ft Collins, CO 80521

● **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear NIA Members,

Instead of writing to you from the Executive Directors chair, I will be doing it from this chair for the next two years. This is probably as good a time as any to thank, first, the Past President Mike Guthrie for all he has done for the NIA and insulator collecting in general during his term of office. I am inheriting an organization that is administratively and financially sound. I hope I can continue the momentum that Mike has established.

Most of the previous board and committee chairs are unchanged this term thanks to the generous and dedicated efforts of these people to stay on and work for the hobby and you. On behalf of the NIA, I extend my sincere appreciation to these folks who often work behind the scenes to keep everything running smooth.

The NIA will be taking steps soon to ensure NIA show hosts can continue to put on great insulator shows for you, for years to come. You can help by being an NIA member and by attending shows in your region.

Best Regards,

Eric Halpin, #2768



● 1989/90 FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
ROSS E. HUTH, TREASURER

BEGINNING BALANCE: (7-8-90) \$ 4,699.57

REVENUES: \$ 6,131.48

Dues	4,916.00
Interest	184.98
Stationary Sales	40.00
Product Sales	939.50
Misc.	51.00

EXPENDITURES: \$ 4,027.29

Drip Points	406.00
Postage	810.44
Telephone	148.21
Supplies	401.28
Show Awards	910.09
Advertising	250.00
Memb. Directory	780.00
Membership	138.87
NIA Products	182.50

BALANCE: (6-30-90) \$ 6,803.66

Respectfully Submitted,

Ross E. Huth, Treasurer

● **TWENTY FIRST NATIONAL INSULATOR
ASSOCIATION CONVENTION**

**MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING
AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN - PORTLAND, OR.**

The eighteenth general meeting of the National Insulator Association was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Mike Guthrie who greeted the more than 90 members in attendance.

Numerous past and present board and committee chairpersons, former national show hosts, and outstanding service and lifetime NIA members were introduced. Included in this group was Ernie Rostock, 2nd NIA President and NIA #2. This year's national show host Steve Watkins was introduced.

OLD BUSINESS:

The minutes of the Seventeenth General Meeting held in Allentown, Pennsylvania and published in *Drip Points* in the October, 1989 *Crown Jewels* of the Wire were approved.

The Treasurer's Report, as submitted by Ross Huth and presented by Mike Guthrie, was reviewed. Year end balance as of June 30, 1990 was \$6803.66. This increased cash balance will enable the NIA to more fully financially support show hosts now and in the future.

The new NIA name and badge bars were introduced by the President. These tags are an effort to help recognize the many contributions by NIA members over the years. The 10 and 15 year bars are available at the NIA desk.

The President outlined the now completed NIA "Show

Hosts Handbook” which is proving to be a very valuable asset to people contemplating hosting a show.

The President reported on the growing foreign interest in insulators and the numerous articles appearing in their hobby and collecting magazines. Carol McDougald and Marilyn Albers visited several collectors on a recent European trip.

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Director Eric Halpin announced the locations of the 1991 NIA shows:

The **Central National** will be held in **Cedar Rapids, Iowa** on July 26-28. **Larry and Pat Whitlock** are the hosts.

The **Eastern Regional** will be held in **Meriden, Conn.**, on August 24-25. Your hosts are **Doug MacGillvary** and **Kevin Lawless**.

There have been no bids received for the Western Regional yet.

The President introduced **President-Elect Eric Halpin**, who in turn introduced the new **Executive Director, Bernie Warren**.

The President outlined for the membership the problem with the recent Western Region Vice-President election. The decision by the Board to hold a new election was announced and that Shirley Patocka would continue on in the interim. It was also stated that, with the help of *Crown Jewels*, the NIA membership list would be computerized. Nominations chairperson Duane Davenport indicated that new mailing addresses would be on future ballots.

The Executive Director advised the membership of a

missing CD-123 EC&M in sage green and mint that went missing at the show. Ethics chairperson Elton Gish will prepare a notice, regarding this distinctive insulator, which will appear in *Crown Jewels*.

The issue of the NIA March renewal date was again discussed. Since the NIA now has provisions to allow interested NIA members to submit multi-year dues at one time, the point in question is somewhat moot. Thus, if a member wants to pay any number of years dues in advance, it can be easily and painlessly done.

The NIA membership cards are often too big to fit properly in wallets and the NIA plastic holders. The President is to look into this problem before the net NIA renewal period.

Outgoing President Mike Guthrie outlined his overview of his term of office and the positive future for our hobby.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM until July 26, 1991 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Halpin NIA #2768
Executive Director



NIA Coffee Mug
Only \$8.00 including postage and insurance.

NIA LOGO ITEMS



Embroidered Patch or Window Decal

To order 2" x 1 3/4" decal (\$1.00) or 3 1/2" x 2 1/2" patch (\$3.50) or send your check payable to National Insulator Association along with a SASE to the NIA Director of Marketing:

JACKIE LINSKOTT, 3557 Nicklaus Dr., Titusville, FL 32780

50/50 Cotton-Poly T-Shirt

lt. blue Sizes: S, M, L, XL

\$12.00 each (includes postage/handling)

Make check Payable to National Insulator Assn.
and send to Jackie Linscott



- **REPORT ON THE AWARDS BANQUET
20TH ANNUAL NIA CONVENTION
ALLENTOWN, PA JULY 14-16, 1989**

Part of the overall success of the Allentown National can be attributed to the quality and the quantity of the displays which were present for the attendees to enjoy. A total of twenty-six outstanding exhibits, which included four non-competitive displays, captured the attention of all and helped to educate beginning and advanced collectors alike. The NIA would like to sincerely thank all of the exhibitors who made the time and effort to promote our hobby by sharing their collections and their creativity with others. Sincere thanks is also extended to the show chairmen for the many hours of effort which were necessary to make the display portion of the show into a reality.

- **NIA DISPLAY AWARDS:**

- **General**

- * 1st place: **Larrin Wanechek**, Cle Elum, WA
- * 2nd place: **James Doty**, Simi Valley, CA

- **Specialty**

- * 1st place: **Mike Guthrie**, Madera, CA
- * 2nd place: **Shirley Patocka**, Penryn, CA
- * 3rd place: **David Benko**, Edmonds, WA

- **Threaded Glass**

- * 1st place: **Jack Garris**, Cle Elum, WA
- * 2nd place: **David Potts**, Woodland, CA

- **Color**

- * 1st place: **Violet Brown**, Redmond, WA

- **Junior**

- * 1st place: **Nathan Lamkey**, Salem, OR

- **Porcelain**

- * 1st place: **Robin Harrison**, Seattle, WA

- **The Milholland Educational Award:** to **Mike Guthrie**
- **Bob and Phoebe Adams Award** for Most Creative Display: **Mike Guthrie**
- **Central Florida Insulator Club Award** for the best first time display at a National: **Robin Harrison**
- **Nor-Cal Insulator Club Award** for the best use of Western Insulators: **Larry Wanechek**
- **Capitol District Insulator Club Award** for best use of Eastern Glass: **Robin Harrison**
- **Lon Holy Memorial Award** to a Dedicated Collector: **Jeanne Bridges**

In addition to the display awards listed above two additional awards were presented by the NIA to recognize outstanding contributions to the NIA and to the hobby (See write-up in *Crown Jewels*). The **Sterling Finch Award:** Kevin Lawless and Doug MacGillvary presented a copy of *Insulators - A History and Guide to North American Glass Pintype Insulators Volumes 1 and 2* by John and Carol McDougald to the local library in honor of the 1990 show host, **Steve Watkins**.

The **Lifetime Membership Award** was presented to **Andrea and John deSousa**.

The **Outstanding Service Award** was presented to **John and Carol McDougald**.

Congratulations to all - and thanks to all of the exhibitors for adding so much enjoyment to the show ... we appreciate all of the hard work!

• FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings from Alaska. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to serve as the NIA Executive Director for the 1990-1992 term. Hopefully, I can begin to repay the hobby in a small way for the eighteen years of pleasure and the many friendships it has provided me.

The 1974 national at Hershey, Pa. was the first insulator show Madeline and I had ever attended. Stephen and Donna Bobb did an outstanding job hosting the show at the brand new Hershey Convention Center and we were awed beyond words. We had a sales table between Kerry and Carolyn Lavendoski and Jerry and Marilyn Turner, who were sharing their table with Gerald Brown. Gerald's kindness to us and his interest in my early porcelain classics from the Alaskan and Yukon goldfields, along with Jerry's heaps of colorful porcelain and Kerry's case of early threadless made lasting impressions on us that are still vivid today.

Shows, I believe, are one of the most important and vital elements of our great hobby and that is the point I am trying to make above. The opportunities for sharing with knowledgeable collectors, learning from educational displays and participating in the social activities all lead to a greater understanding and appreciation of our hobby. Check the upcoming show schedule in this month's *Crown Jewels* and make plans now to participate in one or more shows. You and the hobby will benefit from your participation.

Bids are now being solicited for the 1992 NIA National and for the 1992 Central and Western Regional shows. Please write or call for bid packets or additional information. Please remember that should a National bid not be received by January 1, 1991, the NIA will then open the bidding to all regions for the NIA National Convention.

Bernie Warren NIA #1828



• FROM THE SECOND PAST-PRESIDENT

Greetings,

In my last letter, I addressed some comments about the Central Regional Show which was held in Port Arthur, Texas. Based on the comments which have emanated since the June issue of *Drip Points*, I feel the need to clarify some of my statements. I intended no criticism of the show's hosts or the show itself. The show as well run and had a full compliment of sales tables and was an excellent show facility. The show itself was disappointing in that there were only around 20 sales tables of predominantly insulators (there were probably around 80 total tables with room for a lot more), and only four displays, one of which was a competitive display.

I do not consider this to be a "National Show" in scope, as I have felt about many past regional shows. Some regionals have been well attended, this one was not. There was nothing that the host clubs could have done to improve on this situation, since they cannot force collectors to attend. Obviously, a show in Texas in March is not going to have the attendance of a show in Pennsylvania or California in July, but this WAS a regional show - the only sanctioned multi-day show in the Central Region in 1990 (as well as the only one PROPOSED), and it behooves the collecting public to support those shows as much as possible. What disappointed me MOST was the lack of participation by collectors from the Central region itself, as well as from the Southeastern U.S., with practically no attendees from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Florida, etc., and this, in some ways, mirrored my opinion of the 1988 Eastern Regional Show in Nashville, TN, as well. (Although that show was a little more representative of a National from a dealer standpoint, and had more insulator tables and displays, it was still not well attended by collectors from Florida and the Ohio Valley.) While many excuses may be made on an individual basis for those who couldn't or didn't attend, the net result was that the show was below expectations in the dealer, display and attendance categories.

By the time this newsletter is published, the 1990 Eastern Regional Show will have been held. This will have been the third regional held in Kulpville, PA. The first (1985) got obliterated by Hurricane Gloria, the second (1987) was pretty successful. I would hate to see a trend develop where the thought is that the ONLY major show to attend is the National. The NIA founding

Fathers were certainly correct in the feeling that three regionally held shows (one designated as National Show) per year would be in the best interests of the NIA and the hobby.

Without the FULL SUPPORT of dealers, displayers and collectors attending, the show hosts cannot continue to promote their shows. We have already had FOUR YEARS without a Central Regional, and at the date that I write this, the NIA Board had not received a proposal for a 1991 Western Regional. We can certainly do a better job of supporting regional shows. They are not to be taken for granted, because there are NO guarantees of shows being proposed each year, as it is! PLEASE don't let regional shows become extinct - this hobby is NOT a Northeastern region collecting group, it's an international one. Show your support of your hobby and fellow collectors by helping to support the shows that they have taken the time and effort to put on.

I hope that this clarifies the intent of my previous letter to my fellow collectors in the Lone Star Insulator Club; it was never my intent to criticize that club or its members, nor show host Elton Gish for the circumstances that none of us had any control over. In the same token, I cannot ignore a situation which bears comment and improvement upon, because, hopefully, some more attendance will be seen at future shows as a result of these past two letters. In the meantime, you may be assured that I will personally continue to support as many NIA sanctioned regionals as I can, since it is in my best interest to continue to do so, and that includes shows in Texas.

Here's hoping for an early wish for a happy, healthy, profitable and PEACEFUL 1991. See you in Cedar Rapids and Meriden (and the Western Regional?) in 1991!

Kevin F. Lawless NIA #1679

**1990-1991 National Insulator Association
Board of Directors**

ERIC HALPIN, NIA #2768 (President)
1441 Murray Ave., Thunder Bay, Ontario P7E 5A7 Canada (807) 622-7583

BERNARD WARREN, NIA #1828 (Executive Director)
1620 Stanton Court, Anchorage, AK 99508 (907) 562-4537

DON REINKE, NIA #3557 (Information Director)
2513 Flintridge Place, Ft. Collins, CO 80521 (303) 493-0505

ROSS HUTH, NIA #901 (Treasurer)
352 Lindley Drive, Porterville, CA 93257 (209) 781-1717

JOHN deSOUSA, NIA #419 (Membership)
5 Brownstone Road, East Granby, CT 06026 (203) 658-9353

JEFF MCCURTY, NIA #1054 (Eastern Region V.P.)
P.O. Box 808, Millbrook, NY 12545 (914) 677-9917

(Western Region V.P.) To Be Announced

JOHN HALL, NIA #1791 (Central Region V.P.)
2803 Livingston, Pearland, TX 77584 (713) 485-5937

MICHAEL GUTHRIE, NIA #3297 (First Past President)
35816 Bonadelle Avenue, Madera, CA 93638 (209) 645-0120

KEVIN LAWLESS, NIA #1679 (Second Past President)
41 Crestwood Drive, Schenectady, NY 12306 (518) 355-5688

1990-1991 NIA COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

CHRISTOPHER HEDGES, NIA #15 (Historian)
4514 Summit, P.O. Box 10378, Kansas City, MO 64111 (816) 753-0921

DUANE DAVENPORT, NIA #3744 (Nominations)
P.O. Box 708, Cedar Crest, NM 87008 (505) 281-9036

RICK BALDWIN, NIA #336 (Show Standards)
1931 Thorpe Circle, Brunswick, OH 44212 (216) 225-3576

JACQUELINE LINSOTT, NIA #1380 (Product Marketing)
3557 Nicklaus Drive, Titusville, FL 32780 (407) 267-9170

ELTON GISH, NIA #41 (Ethics)
P.O. Box 1317, Buna, TX 77612 (409) 994-5662