

NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
BALLOT
WESTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

Western Region Members Only:

(Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Mexico (all), Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Yukon), Australia and Asia)

You may cast your Ballot electronically by going to the NIA Homepage, click on the Electronic Voting ICON and follow the instructions or you may go directly to the voting page at <http://www.nia.org/voteform.htm>

You may vote by mail if the NIA Home Page is not available to you. If voting by mail, please use the Ballot below:

Vote for one of the candidates below to serve as the Western Region Vice President for the term of July 2002 through July 2005.

Ballots should be returned to me no later than June 15, 2002.

Please place your ballot in an envelope and return to:

**Jack Roach
NIA Nominations Chairman
8 Tremont Trace
Wimberley, TX 78676**

The resumes for the following candidates for NIA Western Region Vice President are published in the Spring issue of "Drip Points" (This Issue). Please vote for only ONE.

**Howard Banks NIA # 900
Merlin, OR.**

**Bob Merzoian NIA # 3941
Porterville, CA**

NIA Member Number _____

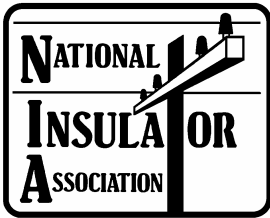
Security ID Number* _____

* (To be found on mailing label of Spring Issue of Drip Points)

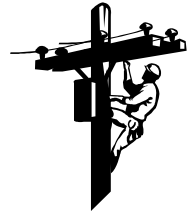
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Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

drippoints@nia.org

<http://www.nia.org>

In this issue of *Drip Points*:

- ◆ *Ballot for Western Regional Vice President ... Please vote if you are in the Western Region*
- ◆ *Editor's Note ... Kevin Jacobson*
- ◆ *From the President ... Steve Marks*
- ◆ *Note from the Executive Secretary...Bob Stahr*
- ◆ *From the Ethics Chair... Charles Bibb*
- ◆ *Regional Reports... Tom Katonak, Ed Peters, Ken Willick*
- ◆ *Historian Note... Rick Soller*
- ◆ *From the Nominations Chair... Jack Roach*
- ◆ *Product Marketing ...Carolyn Berry*
- ◆ *Financial Report ... Dudley Ellis*

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Well, it's that time again. The Spring Drip Points is out and wow what an important issue! I want to ask you to take the time to read through this issue completely. I know from impromptu straw polls that many of you find your interest wavering by the time you get to the end of "Drip Points", but there are some very important items addressed this quarter. Some could even effect you financially.

You have of course seen the paper version of the ballot for Western Region Vice-President. Only members in the western region should actually vote. If you live in: **Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Ore-**

gon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Mexico (all), Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Yukon), Australia or Asia then you are in the Western Region. There are also resumes of the candidates on page 11.

Another very important matter is the investigation into suspect insulators. Please don't miss the message on the next page from President Steve Marks regarding this.

There's one other thing I would like to bring up. The Western Canadian Insulator Collectors (WCIC) 2nd Annual Tailgater. I have heard great things about this show and if at all possible I plan to attend this year. The Tailgater

is Saturday, July 13, 2002 (The Saturday following the Ft. Collins National) and runs 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Set-up 9:00 a.m. The show is In Pioneer Hall at the Exhibition Grounds at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. This would be a great place to take off on a trip to after the National. Moose Jaw is located about 800 Miles due North of Ft Collins in southern Saskatchewan and if you drive, you get to see some wonderful scenery in Wyoming and Montana along the way. For more information you can contact: Mel Bradford (in Canada) at 306-692-0588.

**Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720
Information Director**

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As many insulator collectors know, questions have been raised about the authenticity of a group of insulators that have surfaced on the West Coast. The insulators in question include unembossed CD 735s, dramatic new colors of CD 120 C.E.W.s and CD 123 E.C.&M.s, and a new style of glass block which has come to be known as the "Sierra block."

Several collectors have spent a great deal of money on these pieces. The uncertainty as to the authenticity of these items has been the source of

great anxiety among insulator collectors over the past four years. Even collectors who did not purchase these specific items were concerned about the authenticity of these insulators, thus causing irreparable damage to the hobby. At the request of its members, the National Insulator Association (NIA) undertook an investigation into these items. The majority of this work was performed by the NIA's Research & Authentication Committee (R&A Committee). The investigation has been costly and quite time consuming.

The investigation entered a new phase at the Western Regional Show in Medford, OR which was held on June 2nd through June 3rd, 2001. At that show, John McDougald (the NIA's Research & Authentication Chairman), was approached by a collector who had read an article in the May 2001

issue of "Crown Jewels of the Wire" magazine (CJ). The article recounted an insulator hunting trip that Doug MacGillvary and John had taken the previous summer to search for porcelain and glass blocks in northern California. During that trip, John and Doug were shown a portion of a tree that had been removed by chain saw. The section had a wooden bracket holding one of the Sierra blocks. The bracket and block were recovered from the Plumas National Forest outside of LaPorte, CA. They were told that the section

had been removed intact so that there would be no question as to the authenticity of the Sierra Blocks. As part of their insulator

hunting trip, John and Doug were taken to the tree where the bracket had been removed. Their personal inspection of the tree is also documented in the May 2001 CJ article.

The "Medford Collector," who wishes to remain anonymous, indicated to John that he had concerns as to the authenticity of the Sierra Blocks, and decided to locate the tree where the bracket and block had been removed. He was successful in finding the tree, as it was identifiable from the picture in the CJ article and the scar where the bracket and block had been removed. While he was there, he removed a cross section of the tree to determine if the tree was old enough to have been a location where an insulator could have been mounted in the late 1850's or early 1860's (the time

frame when the Sierra blocks were to have been in service). The cross section that the collector presented to John, admittedly reviewed by two laypersons, seemed to indicate that the tree was only about 100 years old. Accordingly, John photographed the cross section.

The foregoing information was presented to the NIA Board of Directors in a closed session (NIA Board of Directors present only), during its Annual Meeting on July 5th at the 2001 NIA Convention in Atlanta, GA. The Board authorized an investigation and the utilization of funds from the R&A Committee's NIA account. Any evidence gathered and analyzed would therefore belong to the NIA and not to some third party. A tree core-boring tool was purchased and provided to a member of the R&A Committee. That member was then given specific directions as to the location of the tree. He was further instructed to take core borings of the tree. During September of 2001, John received the core borings along with a detailed photographic record of the sampling process. The photographs document that the core samples were taken from the same tree that "the Medford collector," had removed the cross section from.

When John advised me as to the receipt of this information. I authorized the R&A Committee to engage the services of a tree expert to review both the photographic evidence of the cross section obtained by "the Medford collector," and the photographs and core borings taken by the R&A Committee member. Mr. George Ware, a world-renowned tree expert (connected with the Morton Arboretum), placed the age of the

(Continued on page 5)

The insulators in question include unembossed CD 735s, dramatic new colors of CD 120 C.E.W.s and CD 123 E.C.&M.s, and a new style of glass block which has come to be known as the "Sierra block."

...DRIP NOTES

- Many NIA Logo items available!
- Do you have your insulator collection insured? NIA sponsored insurance is available for information on some of the available companies contact:
Kevin Jacobson (NIA Information Director) at 602-564-0851 or kwjacob@uswest.net
- Want to play a bigger part in the NIA? Volunteers are always needed. Write to Steve Marks and tell him what you're good at!
- Moving? Send change of address to Joe Beres (and save us the cost of resending your copy of *Drip Points*. *Each returned Drip Points costs the NIA \$0.85 plus the cost of printing it in the first place*).

Spring has sprung a new product!

A brand new addition to our product line.....the custom
NIA etched enamel logo lapel pin!

This custom pin has the NIA logo etched on 20-gauge base metal with 4 enamel colors and black nickel plating. There is a clear epoxy coating for extra protection against wear. It has a single nail fastener post welded onto the back with a plastic type fastener.

These 1 1/4" pins are great to wear on your shirt, jacket, cap or vest to show your membership and support of the National Insulator Association.

These pins will be available upon receipt of this publication.
The price per pin will be **\$5.00**, postage included.

**I would like to thank the individual who had emailed me asking why we didn't have lapel pins?
This note sparked my research into this product suggestion and voile!**

We have only a handful of gray, screen-printed caps left. These caps are **\$10.00**.

Our embroidered products: i.e. Denim shirts, golf/polo style shirt and cap make **great gifts** for birthday's and upcoming Mother's and Father's Day!

Don't forget to order an **engraved name badge**...these are great for swaps and shows!

Order forms are available in the back of this issue of Drip Points
or a printable order form from the
NIA website @www.nia.org

**2001-2002 FINANCIAL REPORT
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
SECOND QUARTER ENDING 12/31/2001**

Beginning Balance-General Fund	10/1/2001	7046.49
Museum Exploratory Committee		972.01
Authentication/Ethics Account		1696.75

Revenues

Donations	0.00	
Membership Dues	1097.00	
Miscellaneous Income	25.00	
Product Sales	396.60	
	Total Revenues:	1518.60

General Fund Expenses

Advertising	595.00	
Bank Charges/Taxes	0.00	
Marketing Products	24.08	
Misc. Postage	702.09	
Misc. Printing	1230.88	
Misc. Supplies	238.02	
Misc. Professional Services	63.00	
Crown Jewels Rebates	53.00	
Drip Points Printing	866.80	
Drip Points Postage	781.11	
Show Advertising Subsidy	0.00	
Show Awards	0.00	
Stationery Supplies	0.00	
Telephone	0.00	
Special Projects	0.00	
	Total Expenses:	4553.98

Closing Balance, General Fund:		4011.11
Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditures	0.00	
Museum Exploratory Committee Balance		972.01
Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures	0.00	
Authentication/Ethics Account Balance		1696.75
Total Balance on Hand January 1, 2002		6679.87

2002 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Marks, NIA #4951 President

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Rick Baldwin, NIA #336 Second Past President

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Sandy Ellison, NIA #6154 Awards & Recognition

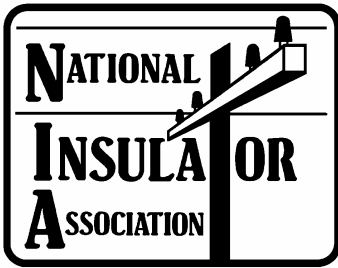
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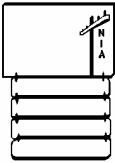
Bob Berry, NIA #1203 Promotion & Education

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Carolyn Berry, NIA # 4336
 Product Marketing Committee
 1010 Wren Court
 Round Rock, TX 78681- 2741
 (512)255-2006

**NIA LOGO
 Products
 ORDER FORM**

		Price	Qty	Total
	Golf/Polo Shirt – pique, white cotton - 3 button tab - embroidered logo M ___ L ___ XL ___ (\$27.00) 2X ___ (\$29.00) *for custom pocketed shirt or special size add \$3.00 for each	\$27 / \$29 *\$3.00	_____	_____
	Denim Shirt -- *Long-sleeve or *short sleeve - Med. wt. pre-shrunk cotton -- Stonewash blue -- Left-side pocket Embroidered logo S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ *S/S ___ *L/S ___ 2X ___	\$32.00 \$35.00	_____	_____
	T-Shirt -- Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weight - Screen-printed logo S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ (blue) 2X ___ (\$12)(blue) M ___ (Ash Gray; embroidered logo on left front, only!) L ___ XL ___ (\$15) or 2X ___ 3X ___ (\$16)-Ash Gray screen-printed	\$10.00 \$18.00	_____	_____
	**NEW** NIA Lapel Pin – etched/enamel; NIA logo	\$5.00	_____	_____
	Sweatshirt -- Heavy weight - Ash Gray – Screen-printed logo S ___ M ___ (\$16.00) L ___ XL ___ (\$20.00) 2X ___ (\$22.00)		_____	_____
	Embroidered Cap -- Stone/Navy, low-rise, embroidered logo	\$16.00	_____	_____
	Cap -- Lt. Grey, screen-printed logo	\$10.00	_____	_____
	Mug -- white ceramic w/ screen-printed logo	\$7.00	_____	_____
	Patch -- light blue back w/ embroidered logo/red embroidered edge	\$4.00	_____	_____
	Koozie -- Foam beverage holder w/ silver NIA logo : royal blue ___ red ___ green ___	\$2.25	_____	_____
	Decal -- light blue w/ logo- red border; for inside car window	\$1.00	_____	_____
	Name Badge -- white badge w/ engraved blue letters - green and brown screen-printed logo	\$11.00	_____	_____
	Badge Bar -- white w/ engraved blue letters (ie. NIA position)	\$4.00	_____	_____

Chest Size Chart:
 S (32-34) M (36-38) L (40-42)
 XL (44-46) 2X (48-50) 3X (52-54)

Subtotal _____
Shipping _____
Total Enclosed _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 Email address _____

***Shipping charges:** Shirts, Caps & Mugs are \$3.95 for the first item & \$1.25 for each additional item. Koozies are only \$1.20 each, if ordered individually. No shipping charge for Patches, Decals, Pins or Name Badges/Bars! ***new USPS rates**

*Please make check or money order in
 U.S. funds payable to:
 National Insulator Association or NIA*

Name Badge Customization Information (must be a current NIA member!)

Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____
 Name _____ NIA # _____ City _____ State _____
 Bar: _____

Use the back of this order form for additional badge/bar orders