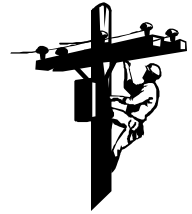




Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

drippoints@nia.org

<http://www.nia.org>

In this issue of *Drip Points*:

- ◆ A Note from the Editor ... *Kevin Jacobson*
- ◆ From the President ... *Tom Katonak*
- ◆ Regional Reports... *Howard Banks, Ken Willick*
- ◆ From the Nominations Chair... *Jack Roach*
- ◆ From the Secretary ... *Robert Stahr*
- ◆ From the Authentication & Classification Committee ... *John McDougald*
- ◆ Historian Note... *Rick Soller*
- ◆ Financial Report ... *Dudley Ellis*
- ◆ From the promotions Chair ... *Bob Merzoian*
- ◆ From the Awards and Recognition Committee ... *Sandy Ellision*
- ◆ Product Marketing ... *Carolyn Berry*
- ◆ Membership Director ... *Joe Beres*

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



This past quarter has been a busy one. I had just returned from the Western Regional in San Jose last August, when it was time for the fall issue of the *Drip Points*. As a result I didn't get much of a

chance to say anything about the Western Regional in that issue.

I really thought the Nor-Cal Insulator club did a great job. Many thanks to Michael Doyle, Dave Elliott, Bill Rohde, Colin Jung and all the others who helped bring this together.

I have been on several trips this past quarter, and one business trip required me to miss the 16th Enchantment Insulator Club show. It was the first time since I started collecting that I have missed this show and I was very disappointed. Tom and Lynda Katonak do a great job hosting the show. If you get a chance to go to Albuquerque the last weekend in September, there is likely a great show being held. Next years show is already

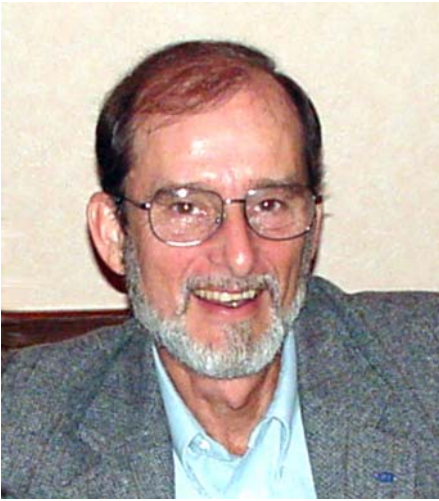
on the books in the 2004 show schedule.

There is a lot of good information in this issue of the *Drip Points*. I hope you enjoy it. We are short the color insert this quarter as there was already so much information presented that the size of the DP would have become too large. The next issue in the Spring should have the next color insert.

As the Holidays are upon us, be sure to check out the NIA Logo items available from Carolyn Berry on Pages 12 and 17. There are a lot of nice gift ideas there and your purchases help support the NIA and it's activities.

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings NIA members! As always, it's a fun job to "take pen in hand" and communicate with the heart of the insulator hobby.

It's been another outstanding autumn for collecting and for insulator shows – among the best actually. One of these events was particularly close to my heart. My bride and I hosted the 16th Enchantment Insulator Club show at the end of September. This turned out to be yet another great show with attendees from all over the states and a bunch of good glass changed hands. Maybe the details will be in an upcoming issue of *Crown Jewels*. The second event was a joint insulator hunting/mineral-collecting trip down to the southwest corner of New Mexico – "the Bootheel" as it's called, from which I just returned. Still interesting to note the few insulators in the air on the old El Paso to Tucson railway route, and more scattered on the ground. Besides, the warm sunny days in the desert down along the Mexican border makes one appreciate the beauty of this time of year down in the desert southwest!

Recent show reports from around

the country indeed indicate that the hobby is alive and well! And while I'm on the topic of shows, and NIA shows in particular, let me point out that we are now in the process of reviewing bids for the Regional and National Shows. The 2004 Eastern National is on track for New Kensington, PA on July 23-25th. And we do have some "potentials" in the making for the 2005 36th NIA Convention to be held in the West. On the 2004 Regional Show front, we have bids from the Western Region currently under consideration, but none yet from the Central Region. So here's an

cated efforts of Steve Marks, Howard Banks and John McDougald (and many others!), I don't think we'll be seeing many more fake E C & M's on the market!

While the E.C. & M. fraud case was perhaps the most egregious case we've been working, it is not the only one. Our work continues on other suspect imitations and we're still working the challenging area of altered insulators. At this moment, we have a number of insulators in the authentication testing process. So stay tuned for more results.

The 2004 Eastern National is on track for New Kensington, PA on July 23-25th.

And we do have some "potentials" in the making for the 2005 36th NIA Convention to be held in the West. On the 2004 Regional Show front, we have bids from the Western Region currently under consideration, but none yet from the Central Region. So here's an opportunity for clubs in the CR to come up with an event to be proud of.

opportunity for clubs in the CR to come up with an event to be proud of. Contact CR Vice President Ed Peters and discuss your ideas.

In the fall issue of *Drip Points* we exhibited much of our evidence concerning the long-disputed imitation E C & M insulators. This was followed shortly by an article on the same topic in *Crown Jewels of the Wire*. As anticipated, this caused quite a flurry of discussion in the community. I am pleased by the numerous comments from many of you folks thanking the NIA for finally being able to formally expose this case of fraud which resulted in the loss of multiple-thousands of dollars to collectors. Thanks to the dedi-

An event that gave me great pleasure occurred this past month. Most of you know that for several years the NIA has been working with the Smithsonian Institution to catalog their wonderful insulator collection. Many of you have been personally involved in this process. The person in charge at the Smithsonian has been Ms. Nance Briscoe. She has gone out of her way to preserve the historical aspects and artifacts pertaining to glass and porcelain insulators and preserve them as part of the National archives – making them available to the American people for all time. At the National Convention last summer, the NIA Board voted to make an award to

(Continued on page 3)

Ms. Briscoe for her important work. So last month, I was proud to be able to send Nance a beautiful plaque thanking her for her dedicated support of the hobby. (see award plaque below)

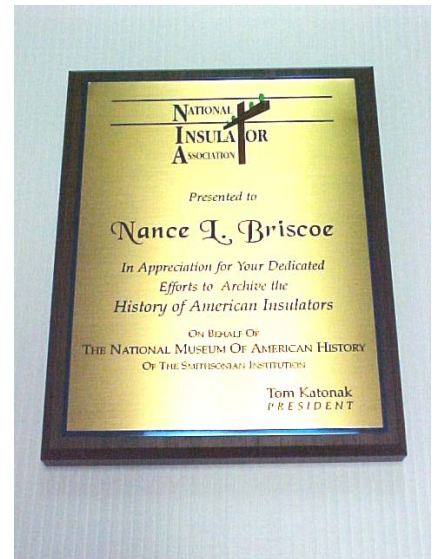
We look forward to a continuing relationship with the Smithsonian.

Finally, and this is an important topic, we have two positions coming open on the Board this coming summer. First, I will be ending my term as President. Second, the Vice Presidency of the Eastern

Region will also be coming up for election. Do we have some volunteers out there willing to lead this fantastic organization through another few years? Call Nominations Chairman Jack Roach or me!

I look forward to seeing some of you folks at the upcoming winter events. And don't forget to call or email me if I can do something for you!

**Tom Katonak, NIA #3567
NIA President**



In Memoriam

'Chet' Gordon, 94

Former Anchorage resident James Chester Gordon, a founder and longtime president of Boys Club of Alaska and owner of several Alaska radio stations, died Sept. 28, 2003, in Colorado Springs, Colo. He was 94.

Inurnment will be at the Lacrosse, Wash., cemetery.

Born Jan. 18, 1909, in Lacrosse, he graduated from Washington State University with a degree in English literature. Mr. Gordon married Josephine Phillippay in 1932.

He farmed in the Palouse area of Washington, where he began a lifetime of public service. He was a legislator in the Washington House of Representatives for more than a decade.

In 1956, the Gordons moved to Alaska, where they owned and managed radio stations in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Homer.

His family wrote: "The tragedy of his son Tim's death in an accident in 1965 motivated Chet to dedicate the next 14 years of his life to the youth of Alaska. He was a founder and president of Boys Club of Alaska.

"In 1978, Chet was named the recipient of Alaska's prestigious Chamber of Commerce Gold Pan award for community service. 'There are literally thousands of young men throughout Alaska who are better boys and men because of Chet Gordon's unselfish dedication,' a member of the nominating committee said.

"Chet collected a priceless treasure of antique railroad spikes, telegraph insulators and bottles. He discovered these artifacts in annual journeys through the Alaska and Canadian Yukon. Chet always kept in mind historical preservation. As quoted in an Anchorage Daily News article, 'I don't believe in tearing things apart from their natural settings.'

"Chet wrote for *Crown Jewels*, a national insulator collectors' magazine. He donated several decades of the magazines to the Smithsonian Institution, which now displays them in his name.

"The Gordons moved to Colorado Springs in 1994. Mr. Gordon corresponded with hundreds of friends who cherish his vivid, inspirational descriptions of history in progress.

"Chet Gordon led a life filled with passion for adventure, politics, sports and family. His dynamic spirit will remain in our hearts."

Mr. Gordon is survived by two daughters, Laurie Fontaine and Nancy Leckenby of Colorado, and their families; and nephews, Bob, Chris and Pat Owens of Anchorage.

He was preceded in death by his wife in 1998; and sons, Dirk and Timothy.

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NIA NIA

FROM THE EASTERN REGION



Fall Greetings from the Eastern Regional Vice President.

Hello again everybody. I unfortunately was unable to submit an article for the last issue of Drip Points due to our computer locking up. Not sure if it was a virus, but it took about 2 weeks to straighten out, and I lost some of my files. No problems since then, so here we go.

It's been another great year for collecting! Although I didn't get to attend all the shows I had planned on, the ones I did make were all very enjoyable. The 2003 National in Springfield was one show future hosts should aspire to - well over 100 dealer tables and 41 displays! Wow! Kudos to the Blair/Drummond team for pulling off yet another one!

On another note, I was lucky enough to see two new styles of insulators (both under consideration for new CD Numbers) within two weeks of each other. At the Albany Bottle Show, a gentleman had a no-name glass power piece similar to a CD 245, but at least 1" bigger in diameter. Looked like the same manufacturer. And the following week

at the Mid-Ohio show, a weird style of Hemingray 830 was displayed. This item was dug at the dump but was in excellent shape. The color was clear, and it reminded me of some of the power pieces coming from Russia. Just goes to show you that there are still new pieces waiting to be discovered.

My digging trips have been somewhat curtailed this year as we are building on to our home. I've been very busy working on that as well as a full-time job, so it's led to a lot of late nights and little sleep. Hopefully in a few weeks we'll be ready to use a 2-car garage, family room, pantry and.....AN INSULATOR ROOM! ("ah ha" you

say, "now I know why you've been working so hard!") Yes, it will be nice to finally get my whole collection together in one place, as well as my library and reference materials. I've had a few small shelves of insulators displayed around the house for the past eight years, ever since my son Kevin was born. What formerly was my hobby room became a bedroom.

We had our first snowstorm yesterday (Nov.12th). I guess I

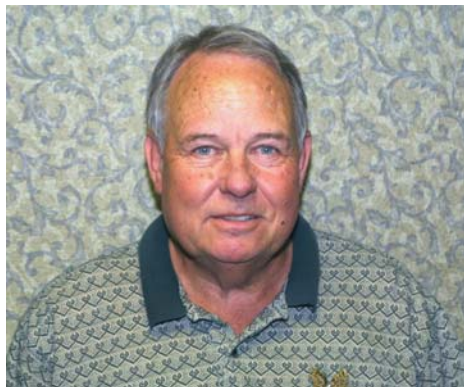
shouldn't complain - Los Angeles got one, too! Between the snow and the start of hunting season, I don't know how much I'll get out searching, but I encourage everyone to get out and scrounge the tracks, antique shops, and second hand stores looking for those "jewels". And don't forget to start filling out your show calendar for next year. Good Collecting, and Happy Holidays!

**Ken Willick, NIA #3709
Eastern Region Vice President**

At the Albany Bottle Show a gentleman had a no-name glass power piece similar to a CD 245, but at least 1" bigger in diameter.

NIA NIA

FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR



We are rapidly coming up on elections for the NIA President and Eastern Region Vice President. We need candidates to fill these positions. Anyone wishing to run for one of these positions, please send me your biography by January 1st, 2004. I hope we have many candidates and I hope all your Christmas trees are loaded with insulator jewels.

**Jack Roach, NIA #4156
Nominations Chairman**

Send bio information to:

**Jack Roach,
8 Tremont Trace
Wimberly, TX 78676
512-847-7302
jackroach@email.msn.com**

Authentication & Classification Committee



As reported in the Fall, 2003 *Drip Points*, on August 11, 2003, the A&C Committee was advised that the U.S. Attorney, who was reviewing the case regarding imitation insulators that had been presented by the Postal Inspectors, was declining criminal prosecution at that time due to the lack of documentary evidence (specifically lack of receipts tying the victims to the dealers). While the NIA Board and the A&C Committee were disappointed with this result, we believed that the NIA had an ongoing responsibility to its membership to continue to pursue certain aspects of this investigation.

To that end, the NIA has been able to secure assistance from

one of the foremost forensic laboratories in the world with respect to glass analysis. Since the specimens that had been collected as part of the Postal Inspector's investigation were in the process of being returned to their owners, the A&C Committee gathered an additional group of suspect and control insulators for testing. While a few of the imitation insulators were included in this grouping, the batch was somewhat incomplete since most of the imitation pieces known to be in collections had already been secured for the Postal Inspector.

Nonetheless, we had sufficient samples to allow the laboratory to perform preliminary testing, and the first test has been completed. It would be very premature to announce the results at this juncture, but I can indicate that results to date are promising, and we are hopeful that when this testing is complete, we will have the kind of answers that our membership has been looking for since this investigation began.

Collectors who submitted samples to the Postal Inspector as part of the original investigation have been receiving their items back in the past few weeks. Several of them have agreed to resubmit their samples for testing again, and the A&C Committee is currently in the proc-

To that end, the NIA has been able to secure assistance from one of the foremost forensic laboratories in the world with respect to glass analysis.

ess of recollecting these samples for submission to the forensic laboratory. In addition to the EC&M's that were part of the Postal Inspector's investigation, a number of other insulators that have been designated as "highly questionable" by the NIA Board are also being submitted for testing. If the testing process is successful, we may be able to answer some questions that stretch back over 15 years.

We will keep you posted as this testing process proceeds. Thanks for your patience in this matter.

**John McDougald, NIA #689
Authentication & Classification Committee**

...DRIP NOTES

- 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@icsaero.com
- Want to play a bigger part in the NIA? Volunteers are always needed. Write to Tom Katonak 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*).



From the Treasurer

**2003-2004 FINANCIAL REPORT
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
FIRST QUARTER ENDING 9/30/03**

**Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085
Treasurer**

Beginning Balance-General Fund	7/1/2003	8905.34
Museum Exploratory Committee Beginning Balance		972.01
Authentication/Ethics Account Beginning Balance		2196.75

Revenues

Donations	0.00	
Membership Dues	761.00	
Miscellaneous Income	250.00	
Product Sales	1936.45	
Total Revenues:		2947.45

General Fund Expenses

Advertising	0.00	
Bank Charges/Taxes	0.00	
Marketing Products	897.56	
Misc. Postage	143.20	
Misc. Printing	0.00	
Misc. Supplies	50.04	
Misc. Professional Services	0.00	
Crown Jewels Rebates	90.00	
Drip Points Printing	699.41	
Drip Points Postage	376.13	
Show Advertising Subsidy	0.00	
Show Awards	21.20	
Stationery Supplies	0.00	
Telephone	36.24	
Special Projects	0.00	
Education Disp Postage	60.59	
Total Expenditures		2374.37

Closing Balance, General Fund:		9478.42
Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditures	0.00	
Museum Exploratory Committee Balance		972.01
Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures	0.00	
Authentication/Ethics Account Balance		2196.75
Total Balance on Hand October 1, 2003		12647.18



NIA LOGO PRODUCTS



Christmas Gift Ideas * 2003



Order your "NIA Badge" today....a great way to meet fellow collectors.

**All silk-screened "gray" stock is reduced by \$ 2.00 per item!
This includes: caps(now \$8), t-shirts(now \$13/\$14) & sweatshirts(now \$14/\$18), while supplies last!**

NEW!! Denim Embroidered Logo Cap – adjustable, self-fabric band - \$16.00

NEW!! Nice Green T-shirt with Embroidered Logo - \$20.00

(new items debuted @ 2003 National!)

- * Golf shirt * Denim Shirt * T-shirt * Sweatshirt *
- * Cap * Pin * Mug * Patch * Decal *
- Koozie_{tm} * Badge * Bar *

Please refer to the Fall & Winter issues of Drip Points for the current order form.

The NIA offers a variety of products and appreciates all who make purchases to support the hobby!

Please visit our website: WWW.NIA.ORG for color photos and an on-line order form.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



2003 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 President
 1024 Camino de Lucia Corrales, NM 87048
 505-898-5592
 tkatonak@comcast.net

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 samsbusiness@qwest.net

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 zedkay@deltaland.nett

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 bill@insulators.com

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 512-255-2006
 pyrex553@aol.com

Bob Berry, NIA #1203 Research & Education
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 512-255-2006
 pyrex553@aol.com

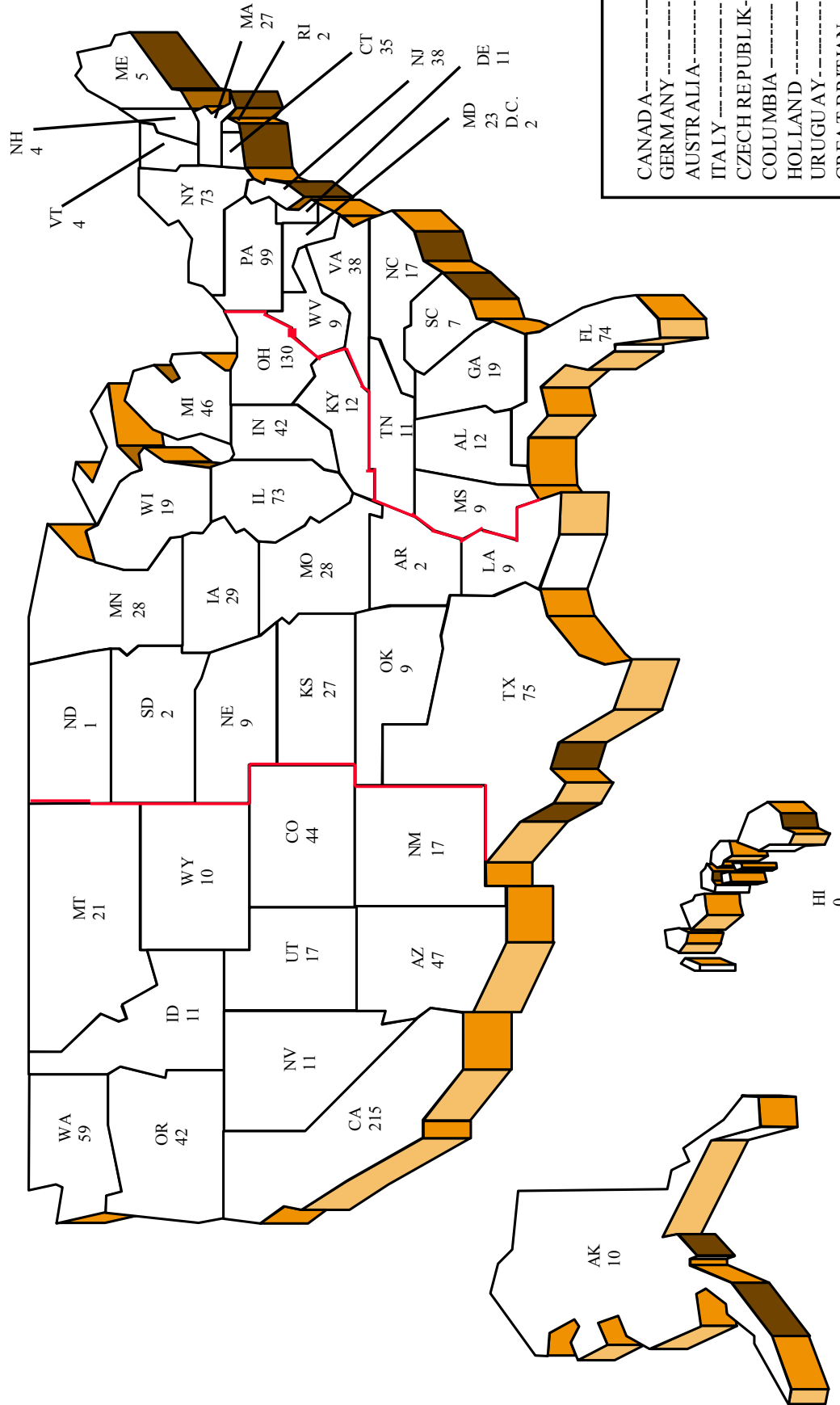
Bob Merzoian, NIA#3941 Promotions
 1080 N. Scenic Drive
 Porterville, CA 93257-1637
 559-781-6319
 bobmerzoian@mac.com

2003/2004 NIA MEMBERSHIP BY STATE AND COUNTRY

West - 504

Central - 541

East - 519



MEMBERSHIP AS OF 10-31-2003

2004 NIA MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL FORM

Submit: **(In U.S.funds) To:**
(Payable to the NIA)

Joe J. Beres
NIA Membership Director
1315 Old Mill Path
Broadview Hts., Ohio 44147-3276
E-MAIL: JJJB@AOL.COM



Note New Dues Schedule!

Regular Membership----- \$ 12.00
 Family Membership----- \$ 12.00
 Junior Membership (under 18)---- \$ 5.00
 Club or Organization----- \$ 12.00

=====
 (Check appropriate Class) Regular _____ Family _____ Junior _____ Club/Org. _____

(Check Years of Payment) Single year _____ Multi-year _____

Please Print

Name _____

NIA # (If Renewal) _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Province _____

Zip/Postal Code _____ (+4) _____

Country (If Non U.S.) _____

Telephone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Please include me in the Annual NIA/Crown Jewels Directory **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Please include my Telephone Number **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Please include my E-Mail Address **Yes** _____ **No** _____

Note: I Would like to Receive Drip Points in the Following Format. **Paper** _____ **Electronic** _____
(Check Only One Choice) (Need E-Mail Address for Electronic)

Additional Family Members

Name _____ **Nia# (If Renewal)** _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Signed _____

Date _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

2003 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION MEMBER STATUS

AS OF 9-30-2003

TOTAL NIA NUMBERS USED 7854
 NIA NUMBERS NOT ASSIGNED 22
 NIA NUMBERS DOUBLE ISSUED 70
 NEW MEMBERS FOR 2003 161

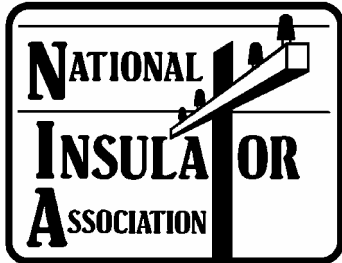
	ACTIVE	INACTIVE (not paid)	MEMBERS
1590	6003		
CHARTER	118	697	
LIFETIME	37	17 (DEC...)	
NON U.S.MEMBERS	33	109	
CLUBS	6	5 (+3 Defunct)	
INTERNET WEB SITES	0	1	
COMPANIES/ORGANIZATIONS	0	4	
MUSEUMS	1	1	
31 YEAR MEMBERS	28	0	
30 YEAR MEMBERS	25	1	
29 YEAR MEMBERS	11	0	
28 YEAR MEMBERS	16	4	
27 YEAR MEMBERS	15	2	
26 YEAR MEMBERS	16	1	
25 YEAR MEMBERS (SILVER)	13	3	
24 YEAR MEMBERS	22	8	
23 YEAR MEMBERS	16	3	
22 YEAR MEMBERS	13	2	
21 YEAR MEMBERS	28	3	
20 YEAR MEMBERS	26	12	
19 YEAR MEMBERS	29	11	
18 YEAR MEMBERS	33	10	
17 YEAR MEMBERS	21	17	
16 YEAR MEMBERS	45	18	
15 YEAR MEMBERS	36	14	
14 YEAR MEMBERS	38	23	
13 YEAR MEMBERS	42	30	
12 YEAR MEMBERS	47	37	
11 YEAR MEMBERS	57	53	
10 YEAR MEMBERS	60	66	
9 YEAR MEMBERS	77	86	
8 YEAR MEMBERS	68	89	
7 YEAR MEMBERS	82	162	
6 YEAR MEMBERS	117	188	
5 YEAR MEMBERS	96	274	
4 YEAR MEMBERS	120	433	
3 YEAR MEMBERS	118	604	
2 YEAR MEMBERS	114	1161	
1 YEAR MEMBERS	161	2688	

MISC.

DECEASED MEMBERS (KNOWN) 170
 DOGS (NIA NUMBER ISSUED, BUT NOT VALID) 5
 MEMBERS ALREADY PAID FOR 2004+ 284

NOTES:

NIA NUMBERS THAT WERE NOT ASSIGNED ARE DEAD NUMBERS.
 (NEVER TO BE USED)
 NIA NUMBERS THAT WERE DOUBLE ISSUED. THE MEMBER WAS GIVEN
 THEIR ORIGINAL NUMBER AND THE SECOND OR THIRD NUMBER BECAME
 A DEAD NUMBER.



Carolyn Berry, NIA # 4336
 1010 Wren Court
 Round Rock, TX 78681- 2741
 (512) 255-2006 -- pyrex553@aol.com

NIA – Winter 2003
ORDER FORM
 Website: www.nia.org



Men's Golf/Polo Shirts* embroidered logo; some with pockets **Price Qty Total**
***Please call or email me for color / styles available - \$38.00**

NEW* Women's golf/polo shirts -- embroidered logo
 *Sleeveless- white pique / navy collar (\$32) _____
 *S/S golf- butter yellow pique with navy/black collar/ sleeve band (\$38) _____



Denim Shirt -- (all sizes orderable)
NEW* Women's stonewash blue denim – sleeveless L __ XL __ (\$32) _____
Men's - med. wt. pre-shrunk cotton -- stonewash blue -- left-side pocket
 Embroidered logo S __ M __ L __ XL __ \$32.00 _____
 *S/S __ *L/S __ 2X __ \$35.00 _____



T-Shirt -- Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weight - Screen-printed logo(front & back)
 L __ XL __ (\$15) or 2X __ 3X __ (\$16) Ash gray – no pocket
 Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weight - Ash Gray; embroidered logo on left front, only!
 M __ \$18 (no pocket) L __ XL __ (\$20 - pocket) 2X __ (\$21-pocket) _____
 ==>>**NEW**Seafoam Green; embroidered; M __ L __ XL __ (\$20) 2X __ (\$22)** _____
NIA Lapel Pin – etched enamel; NIA logo \$5.00 _____



Sweatshirts -- Heavy weight – Birch gray – Screen-printed logo
 S __ M __ (\$16.00) L __ XL __ (\$20.00) _____

==>>**NEW**Embroidered logo(front only) M __ L __ XL __ (\$25) 2X __ 3X __ (\$30)** _____

Embroidered Cap -- Stone/Navy, low-rise, embroidered logo \$16.00 _____

Denim Cap --blue denim, low-rise, embroidered logo \$16.00 _____

Mug -- 10 oz. - white ceramic w/ screen-printed logo \$7.00 _____

Patch -- light blue back w/ embroidered logo/red embroidered edge \$4.00 _____

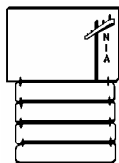
Koozie™ -- The original Koozie™ fits any standard beer or soda can;
 Silver screened NIA logo on: NIA blue __ red __ green __ \$2.25 _____

Decal -- light blue w/ logo- red border; for inside car window \$1.00 _____

Name Badge -- white badge engraved w/ blue letters - screen-printed logo
 epoxy pinback, beveled edges (**fill in form below**) \$12.00 _____

Badge Bar -- white w/ engraved blue letters (ie. NIA position) \$4.00 _____

Subtotal _____
U.S. Postage _____
Total Enclosed _____



Women's Size Chart:

S (28-30)M (32-34)L (36-38) XL (40-42)

Men's Size Chart:

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

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

****U.S. Postage: \$5.00** for the first item & **\$1.50** for each additional item ordered.
 Postage for Patches, Decals, Pins or Name Badges/Bars are **\$0.50** per item. ****for non-US postage, AK & HI, please contact me for an exact postage quote!!**

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

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

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