

DRIP POINTS



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
VOLUME 17 NUMBER 1 FALL 1989

In this issue of "DRIP POINTS":

- **"MESSAGES" from Board members**
including discussions on ...
 - NIA News Items ...
Mike Guthrie
 - Minutes from 20th National ...
Eric Halpin
 - Allentown National Awards ...
Rick Baldwin
 - NIA Financial Statement ...
Ross Huth

- **NOTE: NIA PRESIDENT AND WESTERN REGION VICE-PRESIDENT POSITIONS ARE UP FOR RE-ELECTION IN 1990!** Contact Duane Davenport for more information

• FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NIA Members,

If this year's National Convention at Allentown is any indication, the insulator collecting hobby is taking off like a rocket!!!! This year's show hosted by Frank Edgar, Doug Williams, and David Wiecek had more sales tables, more displays, and more at the awards banquet than any show in recent history. Our thanks to the hosts for their efforts and to all of the collectors in attendance without whom no show could succeed.

Many things have been happening in our hobby and it is important that you read the contents of this issue of *Drip Points* completely to see about all of the "business" which has been going on. Some of the issues which are not addressed elsewhere will be the topics of my message this quarter.

Members in the East Region may have noticed that they did not receive a ballot to vote for the East Region NIA Vice-Presidency which was due for election this year. Well, since only one member agreed to run for the position, I determined it a waste of the NIA's limited resources to distribute a ballot to elect an unopposed candidate. It is my pleasure to announce to you that Jeff McCurdy of Millbrook New York has agreed to serve a second term as Eastern Region V.P. making him only the second two-term V.P. to serve the hobby. Jeff has done an outstanding job trying to promote the objectives of the NIA so welcome aboard for another three years, Jeff, and thanks for serving!

I am not as happy to announce the next appointment because I had sincere hopes that the position would not be required. After several incidents, however, it was necessary for me to appoint an Ethics Committee Chairman to deal with a few incidents of ethics violations. Elton Gish, of Port Neches, Texas, has consented to fill this most important position. I am happy to report that he has successfully resolved his first assignment!

Finally, John McDougald has agreed to serve as the *ad hoc* Bylaws Committee Chairperson, thanks John!

At the general membership meeting at Allentown the Board of Directors proposed an increase in NIA dues from \$8 to \$10 per year. This increase was approved and becomes effective in April of 1990 making it the first increase in four years. The main purpose for the dues increase is to permit the NIA to provide more

financial support for National and Regional show hosts to defray the ever escalating costs of putting on a show. The costs of facilities and every other aspect of show hosting makes it critical that additional revenues be generated to assist with the show budgets. If these revenue sources do not evolve, shows are doomed to die from financial starvation. The NIA treats all funds with the utmost in care as evidenced by our current financial condition which is the best in years. We believe that you will recognize this need and support this increase. NIA membership dues are still among the lowest of any National hobby organization.

As the end of the decade approaches I am anxious to see what surprises the 1990's will hold for our hobby. I hope that the interest we have seen in the last half of the 80's continues in intensity inspiring collectors everywhere to get out and "shake the bushes" for all of the treasures which remain hidden in the ground, in basements, garages, barns, etc., etc. As the great Chinese philosopher once said: "Good things come to he who shakes" (Was that Mike Tse Tung? - Ed.)

Mike Guthrie

● **MISC. NOTES FROM MIKE:**

SPECIAL AWARD TO LONG TIME NIA MEMBERS

For many years there has been discussion about ways to recognize the year to year support of our members. This year an award for long time members has been developed and was awarded to those who qualify at the Allentown National. The award consists of a bar to be attached to one's NIA name badge to reflect that the wearer has been an NIA member for 10 or 15 years (see example below.) The badge bar is a free gift to you from the NIA in appreciation for your years of support. It comes complete with the metal rings to attach to your name badge (of course if you don't already have your name badge you can get one from Jackie Linscott, Director of Product Marketing.)

To get your 10 or 15 year bar, simply write Membership Committee Chairperson John DeSousa and he will verify your qualifications and send your bar to you. If you are a 15 year member and want a ten year bar as well, the charge is \$3.00 ppd.

Thanks to all of you long time members for helping the NIA support the hobby!

PROPOSED BYLAW REVISIONS FROM THE 1989 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

1. NATIONAL SHOW BID PROCESS:

Several times since 1980 the NIA has received only one bid for the National Convention from the specified region. In some cases, the bid was received only hours before the current year's National! In order to provide for the time when no bid may be received, the NIA Board of Directors has found it appropriate to develop a contingency plan. The following language has been approved by a quorum of those in attendance at the Allentown membership meeting and is now being presented to those of you who were not present for your consideration.

To be added to Article IV, Paragraph 3 of the NIA Bylaws:

"In the event that no bid is received from the specified region by the deadline established by the Board of Directors, the rotation sequence may be disrupted for that year as determined appropriate by the Board of Directors.

The Board has established a deadline of January 1 of the year following the last National for bids to be submitted for the National two years later. When no bid is received from the specified region, a notice will be published in *Crown Jewels* inviting "at large" bids for the National from any region which is willing to host the show. Bids will close May 1 after which time the Board will award the show to one of the bidders based upon the quality of the bid.

It is hoped that this process will not be necessary but should no bid be received in one year we at least have a plan to fall back on.

2. NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITION:

The position of NIA Membership Committee Chairperson has evolved into one of the most critical and labor intensive positions in the entire organization. This person is responsible for maintaining all membership records, coordinating renewals, contacting prospective members, and many other tasks of importance to the NIA. As a Committee chairperson, however, this person does not have a vote on the Board of Directors even though much of what he does is impacted by the Board. It has been proposed that this position be elevated to the status of a Board member as the "Membership Director." This motion was approved by the mem-

bership at Allentown and is being presented for approval of those who were not present. Changes to the Bylaws would be needed in a number of places to accomodate this change.

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE OBJECTION TO EITHER OF THE ABOVE PROPOSALS, PLEASE SEND YOUR WRITTEN OBJECTION TO PRESIDENT MIKE GUTHRIE WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ISSUE OF *DRIP POINTS*. If fewer than 5% of the members object, the above two modifications will take effect in 90 days.

Mike Guthrie
NIA President

• **1988/89 FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT**
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
ROSS E. HUTH, TREASURER

BEGINNING BALANCE: (8-1-88) \$ 3,296.25

REVENUES: \$ 6,209.56

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Dues | 4,422.00 |
| Dividends | 84.72 |
| Stationary Sales | 141.95 |
| Product Sales | 1,544.89 |
| Misc. | 16.00 |

EXPENDITURES: \$ 4,806.24

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Drip Points | 280.00 |
| Postage | 301.28 |
| Telephone | 87.86 |
| Supplies | 623.08 |
| Show Awards | 833.63 |
| Advertising | 208.82 |
| NIA Products | 1,466.30 |
| Memb. Directory | 650.00 |
| Membership | 335.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 20.27 |

BALANCE: (6-30-89) \$ 4,699.57

● **FROM THE CENTRAL REGION VICE-PRESIDENT**

If you were unable to attend, you missed a prime opportunity to add rare insulators to your collection. Rarity is my specialty, so to see four (that's right "4") CD265 Fishers at one show was a real treat.

Please mark these dates on your 1990 calendar: March 17 and 18. These will be the dates for the 1990 Central Regional to be held in Port Arthur, Texas. I will have more information on this show in the next issue of *Drip Points*

John Hall

● **FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Membership Status: 1085 Active members:

| | |
|--------|-----|
| VOTING | 550 |
| PROXY | 47 |
| JUNIOR | 17 |
| CLUBS | 4 |
| LIFE | 29 |
| FAMILY | 438 |

With 3345 inactive members.

Awards for 10 and 15 years of membership support are eligible to those who qualify. Send a SASE to me if you think your a candidate and I will send your award or answer any question that you may have.

John deSousa

● **FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** TWENTIETH NATIONAL INSULATOR CONVENTION
MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING
GEORGE WASHINGTON LODGE - ALLENTOWN, PA

The seventeenth general meeting of the National Insulator Association was called to order at 5:30 PM by president Michael Guthrie who greeted the more than 110 members in attendance.

Numerous past and present board and committee chairpersons, national show hosts and NIA charter members were introduced.

The minutes of the 16th general meeting held in Houston, Texas and published in *Drip Points* in the October, 1988 *Crown Jewels of the Wire* were approved.

The treasurers report was presented and reviewed by Ross Huth. Year end balance as of June 30, 1989 was \$4,699.57.

Ethics Committee chairman Elton Gish reported one minor 'no-fault' problem which was satisfactorily resolved. There were about five other ethics issues which were dealt with during the year.

The new NIA badge bars were introduced to the members and explained. All 10 and 15 year NIA members will get one free. Badges and bars will be available from the Marketing Director Jackie Linscott.

New Business:

Jeff McCurty was re-introduced as Eastern Region Vice-President after agreeing to run for another term.

The president advised the membership of several insu-

lator and related articles that have appeared in newspapers and magazines over the past year. One extensive article with color photos appeared in a German antique collectors magazine. Such publicity can only help our hobby expand.

Executive Director Eric Halpin announced the locations of the 1990 NIA shows:

Central Regional will be held in Port Arthur, Texas on March 17 and 18. **Elton Gish** and **John Hall** hosts.

Western National will be held in Portland, Oregon on July 6-8. **Steve Watkins** hosts.

Eastern Regional will be held in Kulpsville, Pennsylvania in late September (date to be announced). **Steve Bobb** and **Claude Wambold** hosts.

The membership was advised that the NIA had developed a show hosts handbook, which would assist all future hosts. The handbook contains information on the many hundreds of items to consider when planning to host a show.

In the event that a designated region fails to submit a bid for the National in a given year, the NIA has developed a contingency plan which was presented to the membership. The proposal would modify by-law Article 4, paragraph 3 as follows: "In the event that no bid is received by the Executive Director from the designated region by January 1st, then the rotation sequence may be disrupted for that year as determined appropriate by the NIA Board of Directors." Should this situation develop, the Executive Director in consultation with the President would make the announcement of open bidding for the NIA National in the March issue

of *Drip Points*. Any bids received by May 1st would be considered equally.

After extensive discussion on the aforementioned subject, the motion was passed.

On a related subject, the costs of hosting an insulator show were discussed. Hall rentals had escalated dramatically in many parts of the country and the dealers could no longer absorb the full burden of increasing table rentals. Therefore two main proposals were presented. First, that "NIA Day" admissions were likely to be a standard feature at future nationals. Secondly, that an increase in the NIA dues from \$8 to \$10 was needed so that the NIA can, on an individual basis, be more financially supportive of show hosts. A motion on the dues increase was made and passed.

The duties of the membership committee chairperson have increased substantially over the past few years. These duties involve more time, expense and interrelated critical job requirements than ever before. Therefore, a motion was presented and passed to alter this position from a committee chairperson to a directors position.

Some discussion ensued about fake and altered insulators within the hobby, and how such items should be marked or indentified.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM until July 6, 1990 in Portland, Oregon.

Respectfully Submitted

Eric Halpin NIA #2768
Executive Director

- **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:**

- **Color**

- * 1st place: **Paul Plunkett**, Boonton, NJ
- * Runner-up: **Bob Goccia**, Riverside, NJ

- **Foreign**

- * 1st place: **Marilyn Albers**, Houston, TX
- * Runner-up: **John Dunbar**, West Hill, Ontario, Canada

- **General**

- * 1st place: **Tom Wisser**, Linwood, NJ
- * Runner-up: **Joseph Maurath**, Abington, MA
- * Runner-up: **Robert Roosevelt**, Elyria, OH

- **Junior**

- * 1st place: **Nickolas Rodnicki, Jr.**, Spring, TX

- **Lightning Rod Equipment**
 - * 1st place: **John DeSousa**, East Granby, CT
 - * Runner-up: **Steve Bobb**, Norristown, PA
 - * Runner-up: **Paul Ickes**, Council Bluffs, IA
- **Porcelain**
 - * 1st place: **Jimmy Burns**, Conroe, TX
- **Specialty**
 - * 1st place: **Jeff McCurty**, Millbrook, NY
 - * Runner-up: **Ora Beary**, Venus, PA
 - * Runner-up: **Jim Bridges**, Lafayette, NJ
 - * Runner-up: **Jeff Katchko**, Swoyersville, PA
 - * Runner-up: **Kevin Lawless**, Schenectady, NY
 - * Runner-up: **Milt Livesey**, Doylestown, PA
 - * Runner-up: **Warren Speegle**, Tamaqua, PA
 - * Runner-up: **Doug Williams**, Johnson, NY
- **Threaded Glass**
 - * 1st place: **David Wiecek**, Spotswood, NJ
- **Threadless**
 - * **Dr. Frederick L. Griffin Memorial Award:**
Allen Klapaska, Hyde's, MD
- **Non-Competitive Exhibitors:**
 - * **Mike Guthrie**, Madera, CA
 - * **Bob Harding**, Pickerington, OH
 - * **Robert Roosevelt**
 - * **Kevin Lawless**
 - * **Larry Emmons**, East Hampton, CT

- **The Milholland Educational Award:** to **Jeff McCurdy**
- **Bob and Phoebe Adams Award** for Showmanship: **Paul Ickes**
- **Central Florida Insulator Club Award** for the best first time display at a National: **Jim Bridges**
- **Central Florida Insulator Club Award** for Most Creative Sales Table: **Bernie Warren**
- **Nor-Cal Insulator Club Award** for the best use of Western Insulators: **Mike Guthrie**
- **Capitol District Insulator Club Award** for best use of Eastern Glass: **Jim Bridges**
- **Hosts Appreciation Award:** **Larry Emmons**
- **Lon Holly Award to Dedicated Collectors:** **Warren Speegle**
- **Show Hosts Award:** **Jim Bridges**
- **Crown Jewels Plaque for Most Unique Exhibit:** **Warren Speegle**
- **Crown Jewels Ribbon for Peoples Choice:** **Tom Wisser**
- **NIA Belt Buckle for Outstanding Exhibitor Effort:** **Warren Speegle**

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. The **Outstanding Service Award** was presented to **Elton Gish**, and the **Lifetime Membership Award** was presented to **Vi and Anderson Brown**.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rick Baldwin, NIA #336
 Show Standards Committee Chairman