

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

First of all, let me apologize for this issue being two weeks late this quarter. It was actually by design as my bride (of 30 years!) and I were on a six-week “whirl-wind” trip to Alaska, and I couldn’t get started on this issue till the 7th of September. The salmon fishing and mountain climbing were great, but the real fun was visiting some of the other insulator collectors in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. We were fortunate to be able to see some of the really great insulator collections in the country, including Win Trueblood’s “earthquake-proof” collection in Seattle! And if you ever get to Anchorage, be sure to con Bernie Warren and Jim Bergman into showing off their splendid collections!

I’ve talked to several NIA members now

who have taken out the new insurance policy on their insulators; seems to be going without a hitch. (See the enclosed flyer for information on how you can sign up.)

I’m still soliciting letters for publication in the Drip Points, so send them my way. If you can send them electronically (INTERNET or computer disk), so much the better; saves me time. My INET address is TOMK164440@AOL.COM. Speaking of electronic input, I ran into the first problem I’ve ever had in putting together this issue: The disk I received from our new president was completely and utterly scrambled! The best computer jocks in Albuquerque could not recover the data; and without a paper copy of the input, I couldn’t even retype it! So there’s at least one big magnet

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This issue of *Drip Points* contains all the news from the outstanding Houston National, and an important message on the ethics of our hobby. Read and enjoy.

Finally, I want to extend my welcome to our new President Steve Bobb and new Central Region Vice President Rick Baldwin. I think it's going to be a pleasure working with them both.

Tom Katonak

[illegible]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

July 20, 1994

collector. As collectors and NIA members, we should be more critical in our examination of the board members and their actions because they are supposed to represent us. When people serve past three years and continue in a position six or seven years, you lose the vitality of new blood on the NIA board. When an organization pulls people from a small and narrow group, the perception of a “click” can be created.

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NIA. This may be accomplished by getting more collectors from a more diverse section of our hobby to be involved in the NIA and the NIA Executive Board.

Jimmy Burns

[illegible]

Dear NIA,

Our first goal is to popularize the concept of insulators as historical artifacts, and expose the magazine to as many non-collectors as possible. Our second function is to provide a forum for Canadian collectors, as we are so scattered out with a little cluster in the West, and a larger one in the East.

Also, I would like to promote the NIA in the magazine, so if you would like to provide me with the material for an ad for NIA membership, I'll gladly put it in each issue. There are lots of new collectors coming out of the woodwork here in Canada, and they don't know about the NIA.

Thanks,

for the *Canadian Insulator Collector* magazine,
Mayne Island, B.C., VON 2J0
PH: (604) 539-5937 FAX: (604) 539-3379

ed. reply: Mark, I think you've don't a fantastic job with the new magazine! Keep the issues coming! I'll be sending you an NIA ad. Thanks.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Members,

The first thing I want to do is compliment the Lone Star Insulator Club for the superb job that they did in hosting the 25th Anniversary Show, in particular John Hall, Marilyn Albers, Elton Gish, and Jim Burns for a job well done. I realize all the hard work it is to gather the large and small details to pull off a national show, and have it run smoothly. In talking to the dealers, they seemed to be satisfied with their sales. A few of the noteworthy pieces that changed hands were three E.C. & M's in amber, green, and cobalt. Wow - Great Colors!

Some of the highlights of the Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, June 30th are as follows:

1. The budget for 1995 was discussed and it was agreed that the directors and chairpeople would review their expenses, make necessary adjustments, and report changes back to Dwayne Anthony - with the final revision sent on to me.

2. The historical past of NIA will be represented in *Drip Points* on a more frequent schedule through our Historian, Chris Hedges.

3. We will be seeing further headway on the Education and Promotion Committee chaired by Kevin Lawless.

4. The 1995 show bids were announced (see the report on the NIA General Membership Meeting later in this issue). It was also agreed that the

unsuccessful show bidder will be notified prior to the National.

5. The Outstanding Service Award form will be revised by outgoing 2nd Past President Mike Guthrie and sent to me for coordination among the other directors.

6. Extensive discussion about fake and altered lightning rod balls and insulators took place. The board agreed with Dwayne Anthony's proposal to experiment with irradiation of insulators as the next step to validate suspicions about certain insulator colors. A list of known or suspected fake colors will be gathered by Mike Guthrie and published in *Drip Points*. This list will also be available to the Show Standards Chairperson and to the hosts of sanctioned shows, as an aid to identification.

7. The scheduling of National Show dates over the 4th of July weekend detracts from show attendance and therefore, other options should be explored within reason.

8. Dwayne Anthony reported that a number of members have taken out insurance policies for their insulators.

9. The Hemingray office site was discussed as a possible museum site, but the costs were too high to even think about a purchase.

As you can see, the topics discussed do have great impact on where you the membership want the association to head.

I want to thank every one of my Directors

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A special thanks to John and Carol McDougald for their excellent work in Crown Jewels of the Wire and their continued support of the NIA!

Until next time - **Good Collecting!**

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Claude Wambold, NIA # 1717
Executive Director

FROM THE EASTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

Wow, what a bear of a drive to Houston & back, but it was worth it. After buying two collections on the way down, I nearly panicked when I realized I had promised to haul back a collection that Kevin Lawless had purchased. Well, great sales on the part of both of us solved that problem. Although somewhat lightly attended, the show had its share of serious collectors and was a bundle of fun. There appeared to be no conflicts that surfaced and a good time was had by all. Our thanks to the show hosts and the Lone Star Insulator Club.

A few of us attended the York PA bottle & collectibles show a couple of weeks later. Again, a light crowd and this time, light sales. But who goes there to sell? The goodies to buy were a bit sparse this year and were pretty much from being the right person in the right spot at the right time. Finds included a nice Pettingell-Andrews in sort of a jadish aqua, a 729 and possibly the best find, a skinny version of what most of us think is a 700 egg. Allen Klapaska believes it to be a 700 and since he is now the new owner, we hope it is.

Upcoming shows in the east are:

1. 9/24 & 9/25: Eastern Regional;
Kulpsville, PA Always a good one.

2. 10/9: Yankee Bottle Club Show;
Keene, NH. This is a good chance to attend a quality show & see some fine foliage. DO NOT go up without motel reservations in advance!

3. 10/23: Capitol District Insulator Club

Show; Albany, NY

4. 10/29: Wakulla Springs, FL

AND:...The 1995 National will be in Marlborough, MA on 7/14, 15 & 19, 1995. This show has been in the planning for sometime, has some sharp folks working on it and have some outstanding things planned. Nationals in the Northeast have traditionally been very well attended and this is a really nice part of the country. Boston is nearby and as a bonus, the Brimfield, MA antique flea market will be on that week. If you have never attended Brimfield, you should do it just to say you have. It is, I believe, the largest market of its type in the country. Sort of a jungle at times, but an experience worth experiencing.

YOU CAN SEE THE
BRIMFIELD ANTIQUE
SHOW AND CATCH
THE MARLBOROUGH
NATIONAL BOTH ON
THE SAME TRIP!

More plaudits for the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club. They keep chugging along with a fine newsletter, increasing membership and what sound like some fun meetings.

Mark Foster from Long Island set up a display of his insulators in a Long Island public library during August. He also sent a notice of this to all the collectors on or near Long Island. This is really a great way to publicize our hobby and maintain interest in existing collectors. Thanks, Mark. I hope that this will motivate others to do similar type things.

As an aside, the revised NIA bylaws concerning fakes & reproductions got their first test at the Houston National. We all knew these guidelines were not and

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home or at least off the table.

Good collecting & see you at the shows.

**FROM THE CENTRAL REGION
VICE PRESIDENT**

decade, while membership in the NIA has not shown any significant growth trend - only cyclic behavior following a drop in the number of active members from a peak in the 1984 timeframe. If the causes were simply attributed to supply vs. demand or financial considerations, then interest in the hobby in general would not be growing. Also, our numbers include many family members who are not really "active" collectors. Joe Beres has been paying considerable attention to the membership problem, and he will be instituting some ideas to address it. Within the Central Region, there are currently over 315 active members, which represents about 32% of the Nationwide active membership.

One of my major objectives is to serve as an effective liaison between the Board and the members and collectors within the Central Region, and to do this, I need your help. If you have dissatisfactions and concerns and, hopefully, some constructive solutions, then make myself and the Board aware of them so that the organization can work for **you!** Appropriate responses for the benefit of

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the overall membership will be made. Also, let me know what kind of information and feedback you'd like to be reading here in *Drip Points*. Help to keep me abreast of news about your club activities, your local shows, new finds, issues and concerns, etc. - whatever items of interest that you feel are worth sharing!

Thank you to Silver Anniversary Show hosts Marilyn Albers, Jimmy Burns, Elton Gish and John Hall and to the Lone Star Insulator Club for making the Central Region shine with their outstanding organization and execution of the 25th National! On behalf of the NIA, I'd also like to extend my thanks to the many Central Region exhibitors for their sharing and hobby promotion endeavors. Congratulations to regional member Bob Stahr for winning this year's prestigious N. R. Woodward Research and Literary Award for his article printed in the December 1993 issue of *Crown Jewels*. I thoroughly enjoyed the Houston hospitality and the opportunity to listen to ideas and concerns from several of the regional members.

LET'S START LAYING
THE GROUNDWORK FOR
THE 1997 NATIONAL!

the 1996 Central Regional Show and for the 1997 National. I've already heard some tentative ideas, which I hope will be materializing further. Co-hosting by more than one club and/or individuals could be a viable scenario to think about! Please keep me aware of any strategies that may be developing. The 1995 Central Regional Show will be hosted by Steve

Blair and held in London, Ohio on November 11-12th.

While in Houston, I was pleased to learn about several activities taking place and ideas being formulated within the Central Region to rekindle and promote our hobby! Alan Stastny has hosted two summer shows/swap meets in the southwestern Ohio area as part of his interest in reactivating the National Trails Insulator Club. The Greater Chicago Insulator Club reaches out to midwest collectors with their activities and their very informative newsletter. Rick Soller has several great ideas for potential NIA special projects to increase the tangible benefits for NIA members, as well as ideas for promoting the hobby and achieving more effective show advertizing. Jack Snyder has also undertaken some activities to improve show promotion and advertizing, as well as trying to rekindle shows/swap meets in the southern Michigan/northwestern Ohio area.

As you know, the NIA is seriously addressing the issue of fakes, reproductions and altered items, and additional steps are being undertaken, especially with the education of the potential buyer in mind. This problem is not isolated within the insulator and/or LRB collecting hobby. Reproductions of all types of early glass collectibles are showing up more and more at flea markets, in antique shops, in mail-order catalogs, etc. As many of us are also antique bottle collectors, I'd like to briefly bring to your attention the recent disclosure that unscrupulous persons are altering common and semi-rare bottles to appear as rare variations. Specifically, expanded or wide mouth bottles, which

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Finally, some great shows are coming up in the Central Region this Fall, so try to attend a few. While you're there, try to promote our hobby to the less knowledgeable! The following is a list of cities and dates for upcoming insulator (in

boldface type) and more general bottle shows: **Nickerson, NE** (Sept. 24); Tulsa, OK (Sept. 24); Richfield, OH (Sept. 25); **Ann Arbor, MI** (Oct. 2); **Kansas City, MO** (Oct. 8); Russell, KS (Oct. 15); Findley, OH (Oct. 16); Harvey, IL (Oct. 30); St. Louis, MO (Nov. 6); **London, OH** (Nov. 12-13); and **Wanatah, IN** (Dec. 3). Consult your monthly hobby periodicals for details.

Rick Baldwin NIA#336
Central Region Vice President

Just a short one this month folks. It's been a busy summer with all the shows and the fall pace is going strong. Those of you that were able to make it know that we had a great show at Auburn on the 6th and 7th of August. Wasn't that a great display of Western Glass?! And how about all those E.C. & M's all in the same cabinet?!

Most of you know that we have a new

A reminder to you “westerners” - the NIA National Show comes to the Western Region in 1996. Show proposals need to be in by the 1st of January, 1995 to be considered. If we don't get any bids from the West, the location goes to one of the other regions!

Grant Salzman
Western Region Vice President

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HUTH FINANCIAL REPORT

...DRIP NOTES

- Did you know that the '96 National will be in the West ? Discuss your proposal with Grant Salzman! And the '97 show will again be in the Central Region.
- Now's your chance to get your collections insured: See flyer this issue.
- Keith Roloson, INTERNET address "kroloson@alphd10.attmail.com" can fix you up with a list of insulator collector INET addresses.
- Want to see your name in print? Send me your letters/notes/comments (and become famous like the others who have done so)!

It's sometimes hard to advertise in a quarterly newsletter. Here I am in shorts and sandals asking you to place your holiday orders! Name badges require time to be engraved, and you know all the other reasons why you like to get your shopping done early. Order half a dozen mugs and T-shirts and check six names off your list today! I'll even give you a break on the shipping. (how's that for a sales pitch?) The Product Marketing Committee has been expanding! We now have three regional sales "teams". Al and Ginny Way are continuing to sell our items when they attend shows, mostly in the

northeast and north-central. Ross Baird has volunteered to help us out a bit when he can in the south-central area, and Ron & Patti Norton started out with a bang at the Western Regional in Auburn! Thanks to all of you for helping the N.I.A. reach out and touch...(can I say that? I don't want to get sued)...reach out and let the world know we're out here!

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As a member of the NIA, you must conduct yourself in an ethical manner. This means that you must conduct collecting and dealing activities honorably, honestly, and in a manner which will present a good image of the hobby to the public and collectors, whether they are NIA members or not. The guidelines are quite simple and straight forward. If you can answer yes to the question, "Would I be offended or feel cheated if I were on the other end of the transaction?", then chances are you are not following the NIA Code of Ethics. To put it even simpler, "Treat others in the same manner that you yourself demand to be treated by others."

Everyone knows what is right and wrong, but the NIA decided from the start that it would be beneficial to establish a Code of Ethics to act as a guideline to help settle problems and disputes between its members. The NIA Code of Ethics can be found in your Membership Handbook (if you can find it). It is reprinted on the next page to refresh your memory.

Too often I hear the questions: "What are the benefits of becoming a NIA member?", "Why should I join if I cannot go to the National Show this year (to get in on NIA Day on Friday)?" One of the little known major benefits of NIA membership is having an impartial representative fight for you to attempt to settle problems and disputes. That person is the Ethics

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Chairman.

If you have a problem with a collector, please make several attempts to settle the matter, including calling the person (more than once) to discuss the situation. Often the dispute is simply a misunderstanding. If you cannot resolve an ethical problem, please do not hesitate to contact me directly (P.O. Box 1317, Buna, TX 77612, 409-994-5662). Sometimes a phone call can help settle the matter. Written details and copies of documentation

are required in the more difficult cases. You may be surprised at the options available and the success of our efforts in your behalf. Only in extremely rare cases do we have to resort to canceling the membership and publishing the name and address of the offending party in the NIA Drip Points. Remember that you must be a NIA member to utilize this service -- which costs you nothing more than an annual membership. Happy Collecting!!

Elton Gish,

NIA CODE OF ETHICS

Adopted by the NIA Board of Directors to guide membership in conducting their collecting and dealing activities honorably, honestly, and in a manner which will present a good image of the hobby to the public.

NIA members:

1. shall not engage in the manufacture of insulators or related items which can generally be termed frauds and which include, but are not limited to, deceptive reproductions or altered physical characteristics in any manner.
2. shall not engage in the manufacture of any reproductions, reprints, replicas, commemoratives or the like without first clearing the design with the NIA to make certain the items produced will not be termed "objectionable" to the hobby for any reason such as perpetration of fraud by secondary parties.
3. shall not engage in the sale, advertisement or exhibition of any insulators or related items deemed by the NIA to be "objectionable" in the best interests of the hobby.
4. shall make every effort to comply with standards established by the NIA for the accurate description of the type and condition of insulator specimens.
5. shall carry out trade and sale transactions expeditiously and fairly to the satisfaction of all parties involved.

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Foreign

1st - **Marilyn Albers**, Houston, TX

General

1st - **Carl Rusk**, Robert Lee, TX

HM - **Carol Owens**, Houston, TX

HM - **Joe & Karen Green**, Forney, TX

Go-Withs

1st - **John Wiggins**, Garland, TX

Junior

1st - **James Burns**, Conroe, TX

Porcelain

1st - **Elton Gish**, Buna, TX

Specialty

1st - **Bill & Jill Meier**, Carlisle, MA

HM - **Jimmy Burns**, Conroe, TX

HM - **Jon & Elaine Bayes**, Apple Valley, CA

HM - **Mike Jordan**, San Antonio, TX

Threaded Glass

1st - **Nick Rodnicki, Jr.**, Houston, TX

In addition to the display awards listed above, a number of special awards were also presented to exhibitors and to others for their contributions to the hobby:

-The NIA's **Milholland Educational Award** - **Carl Rusk**

-**Bob and Phoebe Adams Showmanship Award** - **Jon & Elaine Bayes**

-**Capital District Insulator Club Award** for the best use of Eastern insulators - **Elton Gish**

-**Nor-Cal Insulator Club Award** for the best use of Western insulators - **Ross Baird**

-**Central Florida Insulator Club Award** for the best first time exhibitor at a National - **Mike Jordan**

-**So. Counties Insulator Club Award** for the best exhibit using Southern California insulators - **James Burns**

-**Triple Ridge Insulator Club Award** for the best use of Denver glass - **Jon & Elaine Bayes**

-**Weather or Knot Antiques Award** for the best lightning rod-related exhibit - **Joe & Karen Green**

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-Crown Jewels of the Wire Plaque - Elton Gish

-The **NIA Lifetime Membership Award** for meritorious service and contributions to the hobby - **Mike Guthrie**, Fresno, CA

Thanks again to all who helped make the show a success and to the exhibitors whose efforts lead to a greater understanding and appreciation of our hobby!

As I leave the position of Show Standards Committee Chairman, I'd like to extend my appreciation to all who had given me assistance when called upon over the past six years, to Kevin Lawless for always seeing that our awards supplier was on the ball, to those who volunteered their time to be judges at regional and national shows and, of course, to **all of the exhibitors** who have helped to promote our hobby through their sharing!

Rick Baldwin, NIA #336
Show Standards Committee Chairman

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Houston, TX
July 1, 1994

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by President Dwayne Anthony at the Hobby Airport Holiday Inn. Approximately 89 persons were in attendance including 14 members of the Board of Directors and various committees. After welcoming those in attendance, Dwayne introduced and thanked the show hosts Marilyn Albers, Jimmy Burns, Elton Gish, and John Hall.

The minutes of the 24th National Convention in Denver, CO were approved

on the motion/second of Kevin Lawless
and Ross Huth.

Treasurer Ross Huth presented the financial report for fiscal year 1994.

Western Region Vice-president Grant Salzman announced the Western Regional Show scheduled for August 5-6, 1994 in Auburn, CA, and invited all to attend.

Outgoing Central Region Vice-president Marilyn Albers is leaving the Board of Directors after 9 years of service. She

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introduced special guests Marco Schmitz-Lehane (Krefeld, Germany) and Warren and Faye Forster (New South Wales, Australia) who traveled great distances to participate in the show. She congratulated President Dwayne Anthony for a job well done.

Outgoing Second Past President Mike Guthrie thanked all of his friends in the hobby for providing so many happy moments during the past 8 years he served the hobby on the Board of Directors. He said that long after insulators have turned to dust, the friendships made would remain.

Kevin Lawless (Education & Promotions Chair), speaking for Eastern Region Vice-president Dick Bowman, invited everyone to the Eastern Regional Show in Kulpsville, PA on Sept. 24-25, 1994, and the Capital District Insulator Club Show.

Dwayne Anthony discussed the recently implemented insurance plan for insulator collections of NIA members. A question was raised about whether or not the membership was consulted about the program before it was approved. In response it was mentioned that the program was discussed in Drip Points before it was finalized and input was not forthcoming. In addition, it was explained that the NIA had no power over the terms of the plan offered by the insurance carrier so that even if requests had been made which were different from the carrier's proposal, it was highly unlikely they would have been adopted.

Dwayne then discussed the NIA's recent actions on the subject of fakes and reproductions. He explained the background of the recent problems and

the NIA's efforts beginning with a position paper already published which is to be followed up with a listing of known or suspected fake and altered insulators and LRB's. A number of items had been removed from tables at the show already because they were not permanently marked as required. Any input from the membership on how to deal with the problem was requested and encouraged.

NEW BUSINESS

Rick Baldwin was introduced and installed as the new Central Region Vice-president. He expressed his ambition to listen to the ideas of the membership on how to improve the hobby.

Grant Salzman encouraged members to start thinking about possible sites for the '96 National in the Western Region.

Tom Katonak (Info. Director) encouraged the submission of articles and stories to Drip Points.

Jill Meier (Product Marketing Chair) introduced the new NIA t-shirts and ambidextrous coffee mugs. Several of the NIA products were then given away to those present through drawings sponsored by Grant Salzman.

Dwayne Anthony, speaking for Bernie Warren (Exec. Director) announced the schedule of NIA shows for 1995:

NATIONAL Marlborough, MA July 13-16, 1995. Hosts: Yankee Polecat Insulator Club and Steve Jones, Kevin Lawless, and Bill & Jill Meier. Kevin Lawless gave a brief introduction to the show.

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CENTRAL REGIONAL London, OH Nov. 11-12, 1995. Host: Steve Blair.

WESTERN REGIONAL Visalia, CA Sept. 9-10, 1995. Hosts: Ross Huth and Dwayne Anthony.

Kevin Lawless discussed his plans to create an educational/ promotional video and to advertise the hobby in antique publications.

Dwayne Anthony expressed his gratitude to the Board and membership for their support during his tenure as President. He then introduced President-elect Steve Bobb.

Steve recognized the efforts of Dwayne and thanked members of the Lone Star Club for their work in hosting the show. He then gave a brief background of his insulator collecting. He outlined four goals he hoped to accomplish as NIA President:

- 1) To seek new membership through a variety of outreach programs;
- 2) To try to renew the interest of former members who have become inactive;
- 3) To increase participation by junior collectors; and
- 4) To continue to address the concerns about fakes and other unethical practices.

He requested membership input on ways to improve the hobby. Steve announced

the appointment of Claude Wambold as the new Executive Director and indicated he was seeking a person who might be interested in the Show Standards Committee Chairmanship vacancy created by Rick Baldwin's election as Central VP. The floor was then opened for general comments and questions.

John Foster (Texas) commented on the need for education of the general public about the nature of the hobby.

Jimmy Burns (Texas) asked if the membership had been surveyed on the direction the hobby should be taking. Various Board members responded by saying that input on any issue is always being solicited but is seldom forthcoming. A show of hands was requested of those who wanted to survey the membership on the issue of hobby direction. Approx. six members of the 89 present expressed interest so the issue was not pursued. Steve Bobb repeated his position that the Board would listen to any input from any member.

It was announced that both Sis Haymond (Florida) and Madeline Warren (Alaska) had been seriously ill and that prayers would be welcome. Jeanne Beres (Ohio) volunteered to obtain cards of encouragement to be circulated at the show.

Gene Condon (South Carolina) commented on the great work being done by the many authors and publishers of insulator collecting material which many present affirmed.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at approx. 7:35 p.m. on a motion from Len Linscott.

Submitted by:

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INSURANCE FLYER

1994-1995 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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