

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

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http://www.nia.org

### In this issue of Drip Points:

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# A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Hello everyone, I have to start off with praise on what a great job Mike Bliss and Mike Gaudy did on hosting the national this year. While I have not done this myself, I can tell you in no uncertain terms that this is one heck of a task to take on. I hope you were able to check out the great color spread in the August edition of the *Crown Jewels*. Carol McDougald did a great job describing the National. If you made it there, then you know what everyone else missed.

I would also like to extend my own personal thanks to Tommy Bolack for helping to make the color inserts possible in the *Crown Jewels*. The color really does make a difference.

This year was my first National as an NIA board member, and the board meeting was also a first for me. It was fairly long, and as you might imagine, there were many topics that were discussed.

While the board members and committee chair people are always in e-mail or phone contact, the NIA board meeting happens only once a year at the national. I will not bore you with all of the details, but I will discuss some things that are relevant to the *Drip Points* since I publish it.

I had some ideas that I presented at the board meeting relative to the *Drip Points* and some of the ideas were received well and will be put into place this year and next.

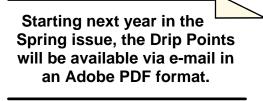
First, as you have already seen,

pictures of the individual board members and chair people will be displayed with the articles they contribute to the *Drip Points*.

Many of you know our names, and even meet us at shows, but never make the connection. We are here to serve you and the hobby and it is our hope that by adding these pictures, you will be better able to identify us at the various shows, tail gaters, and club meetings we all attend throughout the year.

Something else that will change starting very soon will be the addition of a double sided color insert to the *Drip Points*. This will be used to convey important information in color. I think it goes without saying that color can be pretty important in this hobby. One of the first items to be published on this color insert will be a list and pictures of the known altered and faked insulators. This will be sort of an official NIA list for your information. Of course, as items that

are presently of unknown origin bec o m e known, we will publish that information as well.



This is just one example of how the insert will be used.

The main reason for not just publishing the whole *Drip Points* in color is due to the prohibitively high cost of doing so. The color copying and Color Laser printer techniques are still very expensive and could easily quadruple the cost of printing. Not to worry however, the color insert is being donated by an NIA member, so this will not add to the already high cost of publishing the *Drip Points*. That brings me to the next change to be made. Starting next year in the Spring issue, the Drip Points will be available via e-mail in an Adobe PDF format. These will be e-mailed to those who would like to receive them in this format. There are many advantages to this. First, you will be among the first to receive the *Drip Points*. Second, your *Drip Points* will be in color, and third, you will be doing a great service to the NIA.

The Drip Points is expensive to print and mail out to the 800-900 households of the members. In fact, printing and postage this past year totaled about \$4,287.00. That's about 40% of the income taken in from membership dues. This was just for the *Drip Points* and it is going up this year as the postage has just increased again.

One way to fund other NIA projects on a budget, is to reduce the cost of the *Drip Points*, and a significant way to do that is to reduce

> the number of copies printed and mailed.

Reducing the number of paper cop-

ies and the number of issues mailed will of course help put off a membership dues increase as well. As the cost of printing, postage, and everything in general goes up, it is only inevitable that the dues will also have to go up unless we can save money in other innovative ways.

I hope that these changes will be helpful to you all and that you will all consider making use of the email *Drip Points* next year. You will need to communicate your desire to receive the *Drip Points* in an electronic format to the membership director before March of next year to be among the first to get your issue by e-mail. We will of course put you down for this service anytime after that date as well.

We realize of course that not everyone has a computer or even if they do, not all of those folks have e-mail. Not to fear, the Drip Points will still be available in paper format as well.

Just think about the time you will save and the postage the NIA will save if you live outside the U.S.

Best Regards Collecting,

Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720 Information Director

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Well, the 33<sup>rd</sup> National Insulator Convention in Fort Collins is now history. What a great show it was!

Kudos to Mike Bliss and Mike Gaudy for hosting this premier event! And thanks also to the many volunteers who helped Mike and Mike make the show a true success. The outstanding color coverage in the August *Crown Jewels* will give you a pretty good synopsis if you did not have the

good fortune to attend the show in person.

A highlight of the convention for me of course, was being sworn in as the new NIA president. I've really been looking forward to this "tour of duty"! It will be hard to follow in the footsteps of Steve Marks as he has done just a magnificent job at the NIA helm for the past two years, but I intend to give it a shot.

As those of you at the convention know, I was unable to articulate the "state of the NIA" very well at the various functions due to a severe case of laryngitis! (Have any of you ever tried to "MC" an awards ceremony without being able to talk?!) Fortunately, I had the rest of the crew on hand to "put words in my mouth", and thereby was able to muddle through! A big thanks to Sandy Ellison, Awards and Recognition Committee Chairman, who did most of the work making the presentations!

While I think of it, one of the important announcements at the show was the location of the 2003 National Convention. If you haven't heard, the  $34^{th}$  NIA Convention and Show will be held in the Central Region in Springfield Ohio on June 26 – 29. This show will be hosted by the well-seasoned team of Steve Blair and Glen Drum-

While I think of it, one of the important announcements at the show was the location of the <u>2003</u> National Convention. If you haven't heard, the 34<sup>th</sup> NIA Convention and Show will be held in the Central Region in Springfield Ohio on June 26 – 29.

mond, famous for 32 continuous years of hosting the "London Show". It will be a good show! It is particularly noteworthy that this show reflects the desire of many of the members to return to "the good 'ol days" of less formal National Shows. This event will be held at the Clark County Fairgrounds just like we did it back in the 70s. Sorry, no high cost glitzy hotel next year – just the basics of having fun at a National show!

Now, let me say a few words about the team in place to lead the NIA activities for the next couple years and to push forward the organization goals. First the board members: The "new face" this year is Howard Banks of Merlin Oregon who was elected to the position of Western Region Vice President. I am really pleased to have him on board as he is one of the long-time champions of our hobby and the NIA. I welcome his new ideas and experience. Steve Marks now moves in to the First Past President advisory position and I look forward to his continued expertise on legal issues related to the NIA. In turn, Kevin Lawless now becomes the Second Past President and will continue to provide the in-depth historical perspective of everything that has ever happened in the organization. Ken Willick and Ed Peters continue on as Eastern and Central VPs respectively, so this will add

stability to our operations. Dudley Ellis will continue to head up the important treasurer job while Kevin Jacobson stays on as Information Director. Finally, Joe Beres will continue to keep our membership records in order and Bob Stahr has volunteered to stay on as NIA Secretary.

On the committee side of things, Charles Bibb continues to take the lead in the Ethics area while Rick Soller focuses on the Historian job. Bill Rohde and Jack Roach remain on as By-Laws chairman and Nominations Committee chairman respectively. John McDougald has agreed to stay at the helm of the important Authentication and Classification Committee and Sandy Ellison will continue to head up the Awards and Recognition Committee. Finally, Bob and Carolyn Berry will remain in place to do the Product Marketing and Research and Education func-

(Continued on page 4)

tions.

Thanks to all you folks for volunteering your time to keep the NIA running!

There is one remaining committee that was reconstituted at the July board meeting that does not yet have a chairman. This is the Promotions Committee. The goal of this committee will be to promote the NIA and inform the public about the insulator-collecting hobby. The ultimate challenge for this group is to make insulator collecting more of a "mainstream hobby." We have had the promotions function embedded in other committees over the years, but now we are elevating the importance of the work and giving it full and independent status. ľm happy to report that our request for volunteers to head up or work within this committee has resulted in several people contacting me to discuss their ideas and to volunteer assistance. In the next several weeks, I plan to form the group and start work in this important area.

Perhaps the most important goal of the NIA at present is to intensify our campaign to reduce the trade in fake and altered insulators. I believe we have made tremendous strides in this area over the past couple years as the sales of suspect fake insulators have diminished. On the other hand, more altered items - mostly irradiated glass and recently carnivalized insulators - continue to surface. Our most successful tool to combat the fake business is our education of NIA members about the questionable pieces out in the market. We will intensify our efforts in this regard. For example, on the drawing board, we have a list (with accompanying pictures) of all the insulators that we believe are of questionable authenticity. We plan to publish this list - hopefully in the next issue of the Drip Points. This way, when you see one of these for sale, you can make an informed choice about how much you would pay to add the item to your collection. In a parallel thrust, we have submitted more insulators to a laboratory for chemical analysis in hopes of identifying telltale characteristics of modern glass vs. insulators made in the late 1800s. We will publish these results as soon as we can - though it may be several months before all the information is in hand.

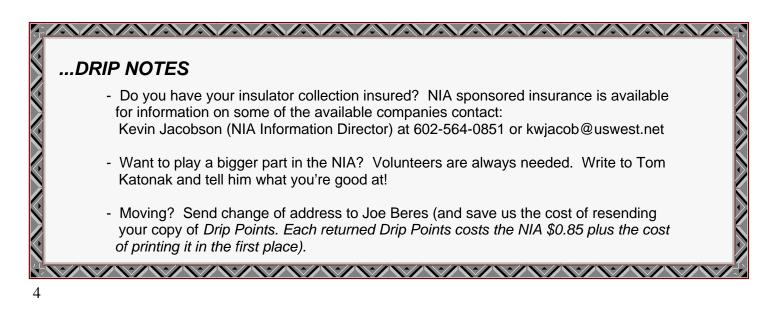
There are a number of other important NIA thrusts in process and I will amplify on this topic in the

next issue of Drip Points. Suffice to say your NIA representatives are hard at work trying to make this a more enjoyable hobby!

Let me close with the thought that I am really pleased to be at the helm of the NIA at this period of increased growth and activity in These are exciting the hobby. times! But I have to tell you that the board/committees and I can not do all the things that need to be done with the manpower at hand. We need more help. So if you have some time to help out, send me a note telling me what you're good at, and I'll find you a job. We need volunteers. Don't have time to volunteer - but you have some good ideas? OK, write down your ideas and send them to me; or give me a call - I'd love to talk to you.

Best in collecting,

Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 NIA President

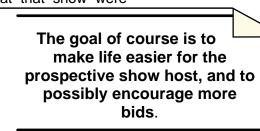


# FROM THE FIRST PAST PRESIDENT



I hope that you were able to attend the Ft. Collins National. Melanie and I had a great time. Sam stayed home this trip to baby-sit my mother and father. Many of the insulators at that show were

extremely scarce and h a v e n ' t "surfaced" in more than a decade. It was a real treat! If you didn't



make it, be sure to read the August issue of "Crown Jewels of the Wire Magazine." Carol McDougald's report on the Ft. Collins National was superb! Kudos to Mike and Mike (Bliss and Gaudy)!

My final Board Meeting as President lasted about five hours. It was an hour longer than usual, but we accomplished quite a bit. In this last meeting there were numerous "housekeeping matters" that needed tending to. As is customary, each Board Member and Committee Chairperson provided a detailed report on the status of their activities. I urge you to read their latest (albeit abbreviated), reports in this issue of Drip Points.

I am pleased to announce that we also made a few rule changes. The first set of changes deals with the submission of bids to the NIA Board to host Nationals or Regionals. In the past our rules dictated specific deadlines for the submission of bids.

For example, prospective hosts had until April 1st of the previous year to submit a bid for a National. As a result, if a club submitted a bid in January, they had to wait until April before they knew if they had won or not. The NIA has noticed a growing trend with hotels to want further advance notice. Lately facilities are unwilling to hold space without a deposit. And of course prospective show hosts are unwilling to provide a deposit if

they have not been a w a r d e d the bid.

The NIA Board has decided that, if re-

quested to do so, and if circumstances permit, it will act on bids as soon as they come in. For example, if a single bid is submitted in January, and it is the Board's opinion (in particular the Regional Vice-President's whose region the show will be held in that year), that no other bids will be forthcoming, then if requested, the Board will begin to review and vote at that time, rather than to wait until the April 1st deadline. The goal of course is to make life easier for the prospective show host, and to possibly encourage more bids.

Our other very significant rule change deals with judging. In the past it has been the responsibility

of the show host (or his/her assistant), to act as a judging chairperson. This person not only had the responsibility of selecting the judges, but supervising them (making sure that they had the proper forms, judged the exhibits in a timely fashion, etc.), and then tallying the numbers. Several hours of work are involved. Again, in an effort to assist the show host, the NIA has decided that the Awards & Recognition Chairperson (or his/her committee members), will act as the judging chairperson. With the cooperation of the show host, they will determine who will be in attendance at the show, select the judges, supervise them, and tally the votes. Again, the NIA is trying to remove another burden from the show host.

Although I am in my new role as First Past President, do not expect me to be any less involved. Tom Katonak will of course be "steering the ship" now, but I'll be hard at work in the "engine room" (particularly with respect to exposing those that think that they can get away with introducing fakes into the hobby). During the Meeting the Board also voted to proceed with an additional round of testing that we believe will yield conclusive results with respect to many of the known suspect My partner on much of pieces. this work will be John McDougald (our Authentication & Classification Chairperson). At some point in the near future, not only will you see the results of this testing in "Drip Points," but you will see a listing with photographs of known "imitation insulators" (fakes, reproductions, counterfeits, etc.).

#### Steve Marks, NIA #4951 NIA First Past President

# FROM THE WESTERN REGION



As the new Western Regional Vice-President, I want to state what an honor it is to work with so many very fine collectors. I see a lot of excitement among both "young" collectors and those who are well established in the hobby. A meeting of the Jefferson State Insulator Club at Tim Wood's house in Albany on August 9th brought in collectors from as far

away as Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (450 miles), Yreka and

fornia (275 m i l e s

Crescent

City, Cali-

each). A backyard swap meet at Dan Howard's in Portland the next day found three dozen collectors from British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California.

So that you don't miss out on any insulator collecting opportunities, here's a list of upcoming events in the Western Region.

#### September 7

Canyonville, OR

Southern Oregon Bottle-Jar-Insulator Collector's Year 2002 Extravaganza at Seven Feathers Hotel and Casino, Canyonville, OR. Set up Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Show Saturday is 8:00 to 4:00. Hosted by Keith Lunt and Bruce Silva of the Siskiyou Antique Bottle Collectors. Info: 541-773-2404 or email: vlunt@callatg.com

September 7 Porterville, CA

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Merzoian Brother's

Tailgater, 22592 Ave. 112, Porterville, CA. Begins at 8:30 am. Hosted by Mark Merzoian, Bob Merzoian, Dave Brown & Mike Doyle. Info: 559-783-8759 or email: memerzoian@ocsnet.net

#### September 8

I see a lot of excitement

among both "young"

collectors and those who are

well established in the

hobby.

Fort Langley, British Columbia Fort Langley Insulator Show at home of Bob Scafe, 9129 Queen Street. Begins at 9:00 am. Info: 604-888-5263 or email: bobscafe@telus.net

> September 14 Arcadia, CA Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club's Annual Show and Sale, Arcadia Masonic Temple, 50 West Duarte Road,

Arcadia, CA. Hours 9:00 to 4:00. Info: 818-346-9833.

September 28

Albuquerque, New Mexico Enchantment Insulator Club's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Insulator, Bottle, Barbwire & Collectibles Show and Sale, Hispanic Arts Center, New Mexico State Fairgrounds. Friday set-up 4:00 to 8:00 pm. Saturday hours 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Hosted by Tom Katonak & Mike Gay. Info: 505-898-5592 or email: tkatonak@comcast.net

October 12 Salem, OR 6<sup>th</sup> Mid-Willamette Valley Insulator Swap and Potluck, 1524 63<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE, Salem, OR. Hosted by Nathan Lamkey. Begins 11:00 am. Info: 503-364-3226 or email: insulators@hotmail.com

#### October 13 Silverton, OR

David Campbell is hosting a 2<sup>nd</sup> day of insulator trading at his home, just a few miles away from Nathan Lamkey's event on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Info: 503-873-7123 or email: roriard@aol.com

November 8, 9 Tulare, CA

35<sup>th</sup> Annual Bottle & Insulator Show and Sale, Tulare Veterans Memorial Building, 1771 E. Tulare Avenue. Friday from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Information: 559-734-3179.

#### December 7

Auburn, CA

49er Historical Bottle Association's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Show and Sale, Gold Country Fairgrounds, Auburn, CA. Set – up Friday 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Saturday hours 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Info: Pat Patocka 916-663-3681.

Looking ahead to 2003:

June 26-27-28-29 NIA National Show, Springfield, Ohio. Info: 740-852-3148.

August 9-10-11 NIA Western Regional Show, San Jose, CA.

Howard Banks, NIA #900 Western Region Vice President

# FROM THE CENTRAL REGION



Hello Fellow Collectors,

In the last issue of Drip Points I talked about the progress of the insulator hobby. This time I'd like to cover something a little more personal to us all.

That is the story behind the insulators that you have in your collection.

We often take this for granted, let's face it we may even think the stories are boring. Today with glass communication insulators just about all gone, the stories become more important. It is our legacy to pass this to future generations of collectors.

When I was a kid I collected coins, and every so often I would hold my 1901 Indian Head Penny and think about who could have had this coin in their pocket. Who could have spent it? What types of things did people buy with it? How far did it travel across the country or even the world? I could only dream of the places that this coin must have traveled. At the time, that 1901 Indian Penny was the oldest, coolest thing that I ever owned. It was over 60 years old!

Just a year later in 1965 the Palm Sunday tornadoes ravaged Indiana where I grew up. Over 225 lives and many homes were lost on that terrible day. That fall of 1965 my 3rd grade class took a field trip to a farm that our teachers father owned. Now I liked the farm animals just as well as any 3<sup>rd</sup> grader. But what got my attention was the telephone pole that I saw sticking out of a pile tornado ravaged trees. On the end of that pole were two glass green things. I'd always seen these on the tops of telephone poles...but these were different. These were within reach! A couple of splinters later and I had my prizes in hand! Not one but two Hemingray No. 9 green glass things! Plus they were now the oldest things I ever owned! They were made way back in May of 1893 that was the last century! What a prize! On the bus ride back to the school then on to home, I held these "glass

things" and placed them bottom-tobottom and ground the pointy things off the bottoms. (Today we call the pointy

things drip points.) When I got home, I proudly took them to my Dad who told me they were insulators. Since he worked with them on a daily basis he wasn't too impressed. This didn't deter me at all; they were still the oldest things I ever saw.

Looking back on this I remember playing show and tell with my Grandmother, carefully explaining how I got them and especially pointing out how old they were. My Grandmother was born in 1899; I wonder what she thought of that discussion? In the winter of 1969 the South Bend Tribune ran an article on a new hobby and a local collector, Paul Kelly. To my Dad and I a new hobby was born on that day. The first insulators in our collection were the two Hemi-9s.

I'm asking that we take a few moments and document our insulators histories. It could be a special insulator we got in the wild, or at a show. Age, price and rarity don't matter.

Now if that 1901 Indian Head Penny and these two lowly Hemingray No. 9 insulators with ground off drip points have history like this associated to them. Just think what stories your collection holds.

I have been extremely busy over

I'd always seen these on the tops of telephone poles...but these were different. These were within reach! A couple of splinters later and I had my prizes in hand!

the

last

several months with work. I never know what coast I'll be on, on any given day. Because of this I was unable to get to the Central Regional in Hudson, Ohio. However, no matter

what the work schedule is in November. I'll be at the Mid-Ohio show.

I'll see you there.

Ed Peters, NIA #6300 Central Region Vice President

# FROM THE EASTERN REGION

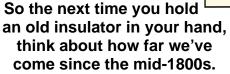


Hello again! Summer is winding down again – time to think about Labor Day, back-to-school, and leaf raking. Snow shoveling is still a long way off, but after the hot and humid weather we've had, one could almost look forward to it. (I said almost!) Needless to say, my digging has been minimal, due to bugs, heat, and family commitments.

I did have the opportunity to attend the National show in Ft. Collins, CO, due in part to some arm-twisting by Jeff Katchko. All I can say is that the team of Mike Bliss and Mike Gaudy put on an excellent show, one well worth attending. I had a great time meeting some of the western collectors that were previously only known to me through the Crown Jewels, or via E-mail or telephone. The displays were fantastic, as was the selection of porcelain and glass available.

Also, I recently attended both the Capital Region Antique Bottle and Insulator Club's swap meet in Gil-

boa, NY, and the Chesapeake Bay I n s u I a t o r Club's summer show in Martinsburg, WV. Both shows were



trips into town for clothing, feed or supplies could usually be measured in hours, if not days. Communication was usually by word of mouth, and mail would t a k e months to

t a k e months to be delivered. The invention of the telegraph must

fairly well attended, and again had h a variety of insulators (and bottles) w in all price ranges. I think just c about everyone who attended left c with something! Please continue to get out and attend your local shows.

On another note, my wife, Denise, had been asked to co-host a weeklong "Hands-On" history camp here in Lima for interested children. The time period was roughly from 1840 to 1860. After lots of research, brainstorming, and questions (to me) about what would or would not be appropriate, the camp was presented, and was well received.

One of the things that struck me about that time period was the difficulty people in rural areas had in

have at first seemed like magic, when messages could be sent cross-country, and a reply would come within just a few days time!

managing their day-to-day affairs.

Everything from obtaining fresh

food and drinking water, to those

So the next time you hold an old insulator in your hand, think about how far we've come since the mid-1800s. In these days of electronic communication we can talk to anyone just about anywhere in the world instantly! We can travel from one end of our country to the other in less than a day. The role that insulators played in getting us to the point we're at today is immeasurable!

Enjoy the cooler fall weather, and Good Collecting!

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

# FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR



What a great National that Mike and Mike and all the others hosted for us. Great job guys. There were two NIA positions open for elections. They were NIA President and Western Region Vice President. The Western Region election had two very capable candidates. They were Howard Banks and Bob Merzoian. Howard was the winner. Congratulations Howard, and thanks Bob for running for the position. The elec-

tion for President was uncontested and the new President is Tom Katonak. Thanks also to all of you who cast ballots.

The next election will be that of Central Region Vice President. More on that in later issues of DRIP POINTS.

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Nominations Chairman

#### FROM THE HISTORIAN



Besides my wife using a couple of my San Francisco wood insulators as doorstops, most of my insulators sit on shelves or in crates and are treated as insulators. Never-

theless, people both inside and outside the hobby have found a lot of other uses for insulators. Most collectors are unaware of the extent of these other uses because details on these uses are printed

in magazines the collector is unlikely to receive or the alternative uses were published in the early part of the hobby . Ebay, however, makes it easier to find some of these references since sellers often list the contents of the magazine and, if insulators are covered in it, a search by the key word will uncover it. A recent donation, a chance review of a bottle magazine, and my own experience provided some other information on the subject.

Not in the NIA Archives yet but on the search list now is the January 1983 issue of Tole World, a magazine devoted to the fine art of tole and decorative painting. In this issue the reader is shown how to paint insulators (CD 122s) to look like people: A farmer, a fisherman, and a lady. Lois Nelson of the Greater Chicago Insulator Club has made Santas out of CD 155s.

I have a note to myself that there is an issue of Macramé World in which readers are shown how to take an insulator and macramé around it to make a hanging planter. I've seen a similar idea involving wrapping a chain around the insulator to do the same.

A catalog from Matthews Wire that is in the archives shows how this wire bending company places insulators in a variety of bent wire forms to make candle holders that attach to a wall or sit on a table using a variety of insulators. This Frankfort, Indiana company has

Outside Baraboo, Wisconsin, an artist used huge substation wall tubes, suspensions and transformer bushings to create a two-story tall sculpture that looks like a space observatory.

purchased a lot of common insulators from collectors in this area and can now be found selling grab bags of these insulators on eBay. I've also seen another company's catalog sell chocolate porcelain spools for candle holders. I know there is a third company using insulators in their product that involves heavy copper wire turned into a spiral that holds an insulator.

About two years ago, both Paul Hoste and I had the chance to sell insulators to a woman in Grand Rapids, Michigan who was using them on the top of scaled down lighthouses that she sold at flea markets. Her husband made the lighthouses and her disabled sister painted the lighthouses and glued the insulator on top.

In the 1970s, to raise funds, the

Independent Telephone Pioneer chapter in Delaware, OH sold a number of cast aluminum items containing insulators. The items were made by Bob Miley and included train engine with an insulator as its boiler, a pot belly stove, a liberty bell, and a cannon. Α "school marm" bell was also created in which a hole was drilled through the top of an insulator and a wooden handle added to the top. You can read about these in the October 1977 issue of Old Bottle Magazine.

Early in the 1970s Bob & Varerie St. Pierre wrote a 16 page book on the subject titled Gift Items

> Made from Insulators and recently donated to the archives by Elton Gish. In this book are step-by-step instructions for making night lights, door stops, paperweights, candle holders, and lamps. I

had never heard of this book until this year.

Outside Baraboo, Wisconsin, an artist used huge substation wall tubes, suspensions and transformer bushings to create a twostory tall sculpture that looks like a space observatory. Creatures made out of unusual pieces of machinery and lighting arrestors can be found throughout the grounds.

Pictures of many of the items described above can be found on the NIA web site. With billions of insulators available to the general public, I wouldn't be surprised if a lot more turn up.

#### Rick Soller, NIA # 2958 Historian

#### FROM THE SECRETARY



NIA ANNUAL GENERAL **MEMBERSHIP MEETING -**JULY 5, 2002 – Holiday Inn Hotel Fort Collins, CO.

Board and Chair Members present:

Tom Katonak, Steve Marks, Bob Stahr, Kevin Lawless, Kevin Jacobson, Howard Banks, Ed Peters, Dudley Ellis, Rick Soller, Bill Rohde, Ken Willick, Joe Beres, Bob Berry, Carolyn Berry, John McDougald, Sandy Ellison, Jack Roach.

Members Present:

83 Members in addition to the Board & Chair members listed above.

President Steve Marks called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM MDST. He reported on this years progress in various areas including renaming of the Research and Authentication committee to the "Authentication and Classification Committee" and the Promotions and Education committee is now called the "Research and Education Committee". These committees which were created under Article VI of our bylaws were renamed in part due to the additional responsibilities and tasks that have been assigned to them.

Bob Stahr was then introduced as the NIA Executive Secretary. He

reported on the corporate status of our organization and indicated that the NIA Treasurer's Report was filed with the Arizona Corporate Commission. Everything regarding our corporate status seems to be moving along fine. Bob then asked for a motion to adopt the NIA General Membership Meeting Minutes from the 2001 NIA National at Atlanta, GA. Bill Meier motioned. Lee Brewer Seconded, and all members in the audience were in

was presented by Dudley Ellis.

Money has been tight, but he has

managed to balance the budget

again this year. The full report will

appear in the next issue of "Drip

Joe Beres gave a membership

1,562 active members. New mem-

bers for today were 32 and an-

other 36 renewals. Membership

has been consistently hovering at

this level for the last couple of

Information Director Kevin Jacob-

son talked about the Drip Points

newsletter production and talked

about the possibility of sending the

newsletter via E-mail. This would

reduce the cost of postage and

printing of the newsletter and help

balance the budget. In addition, e-

mail offers the possibility of color

Nominations were discussed by

Jack Roach . The Western Region

VP position was up for election

this year as well as the NIA Presi-

dent. Since Tom Katonak was the

nominee for NIA President and

As of today, we have

agreement adopt to the minutes.

Т h е Treasurers Report

Points."

report.

vears.

photographs.

membership report. As of today, we have 1,562 active members.

was running un-opposed, no ballots were mailed and he was elected to President. Tom's old post, Western Region VP had two candidates: Howard Banks and Bob Merzoian. After tallying the votes, Howard Banks received 50 votes and Bob Merzoian received 31 votes. Therefore. Howard Banks is now the Western Region VP.

Rick Soller, Historian, was next,

and he reported his ongoing search for a museum that the NIA would like to team up with as a host for an

insulator museum. Rick has visited and had correspondence with many, but no front runner has turned up yet. He will continue his search and welcomes input from the general membership.

Charles Bibb, Ethics Chair, gave his report on ethics issues involving insulator transactions over the past year.

Bob Berry gave a report from the newly named Research and Education Committee. The Smithsonian project has been continuing to be a great success and several more trips are planned. Larry Novak has been instrumental in helping catalog the collection. Bob has also started an "insulator time-line" at the NIA's website www.nia.org. He will continue to add items and is looking for input from the membership.

Carolyn Berry gave an update on product marketing. Some new and improved items are available. The NIA made a good profit last year and anticipates doing well this year too.



10

Sandy Ellison reported on the Region for 2003, so there is no Springfield, OH by Glenn Drum-Awards and Recognition Commit- need for a regional. We have not mond, Steve Blair (& of course tee. All the awards are here at the received a bid for the Central Re- Lois), and help from the National show and will be presented to the gional 2004 show and are looking Trails Insulator Club. This bid harkrecipients at the NIA Banquet. All ahead to get a bid. ens back to the days of past. It will previous show hosts for NIA Nabe held at the county fairgrounds. tionals will be receiving permanent John McDougald Chair of the newly plaques to recognize their contribu- named Authentication & Classifica- Bob introduced Steve Blair and tions to the hobby. At this point tion Committee reported that the Glenn Drummond, who then talked there are only a couple of past NIA is still moving forward on sus- about the facility and all the amenihosts that have not been located. pect insulators. The NIA is also ties of the area. This show is in late opening dialogue between the June, a little earlier than past Ken Willick, Eastern Region VP, creators of the CD, U, and M num- shows. made his report on the Eastern Re- bering systems. It is the intent of gion. At this point, there is no bid the NIA not to take over the assign- Tom Katonak was introduced as for the Eastern region, although ments, but rather ensure that the the new NIA President. Tom had a there is a slight possibility of one. In assignments will be given out ap- general overview of his proposed addition, many Eastern Region propriately in the future if the cur- agenda to present. members have been involved with rent creators are unable to do so. the Smithsonian Institution project A motion was made to adjourn the and Ken expressed his thanks to Bob Stahr reported that the there meeting by Steve Marks and secwere two bids for the 2003 NIA onded by Jack Roach. The meeting all. Western Region show. Both bids adjournment was approved by the Ed Peters, Central Region VP, were of high caliber and it took the membership at 5:40 pm. gave a favorable report on the Cen- Board some time to make a final tral Region. The Mid-Ohio show is selection. The winner was San Respectfully Submitted staying at Springfield, OH. The Jose, CA. The show is hosted by This Day August 21, 2002 Central Regional show this year is Dave Elliot and the Nor-Cal Insulain Hudson, OH in August. The NIA tor Club. Bob also reported that the Robert B. Stahr, NIA #4186 National show will be in the Central 2003 National will be hosted in NIA Secretary



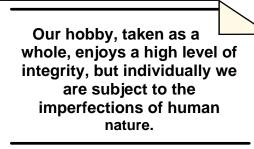
# FROM THE ETHICS CHAIR

This time I want to talk about integrity - not so much the dictionary definition, but as defined in more personal terms. I've always thought of integrity as a person's tendency to be honest even when no one

else is watching. What you do I see a particularly alarming integwhen you think no one is looking rity deficit in the practice of more shows the world, or at least your- and more sellers, some of them

self. what kind of peryou son really are.

0 u r hobby, taken as a whole. enjoys a high



very highprofile and with long histories in the hobby, who are currently marketing а new wave of hiahlv auestionable items.

level of integrity, but individually we The most glaring examples are the are subject to the imperfections of so-called "Mexican threadless" human nature. As the market val- pieces. Thankfully, few have been ues of desirable insulators spiral fooled by these absurdities, and out of control, and out of reach for frankly, I'm surprised that any most collectors, some of us seem dealer could offer one for sale with to become disoriented in the rare- a straight face. But, there are other, fied atmosphere of four- and five- more enticing, and less obvious digit price tags.

bogus rarities popping up lately.

lectors who actually know the real things from the junk, is shrinking.

probing questions, and do your you in the eye. best to establish the authenticity of that sparkling jewel before handing experienced collectors what they own. It is as honest or as rife with seem interested in the 'killer' pieces buck hustlers, and set aside our that just surfaced?" And remember, own short-term king-of-the-latest-

The scary part is that the quality of the only stupid questions are the hill mentality long enough to deny these previously unknown speci- ones you don't ask. Finally, don't the unscrupulous an outlet for their mens is getting better with each be intimidated by a smooth talker worthless wares. They can only sell incarnation, and the number of col- with a vague story. Press for facts. if we buy.

"insulators" are showing up on pends on what we each do, You can help combat the problem ebay, probably due to the deper- whether anyone is watching or not. by refusing to provide a ready mar- sonalizing nature of electronic We can all strive to act in the best ket for these impostors. How? First, transactions. It is, after all, harder interest of our favorite hobby, or we educate yourself. Ask the seller to lie to a man when he's looking can let greed take over until all is

Our hobby has no self-hobby. I've made my choice, what's over your cash. Ask other, more determining level of integrity of its yours? think. Then, ask yourself questions fraud as its participants make it. I Charles Bibb, NIA #6097 like, "Why do none of the old-timers recommend we all ignore the guick- Ethics Chairman

Right now, some most dubious The integrity of our hobby deconfusion and there is no longer a legitimate insulator collecting

Classics – A Pretty LRB Is Like a

Melody" by John & Carol McDou-

#### FROM THE AWARDS AND NIA AWARDS **RECOGNITION COMMITTEE**



At the 2002 Ft. Collins National there was a great variety of displays with both competitive and non-competitive types, and 26 displays in all. The display area was at one end of the show hall, and when people walked in they were greeted by displays that were full of color, variety, rarity, and just plain fun. Each display was given an appreciation plaque from the Show Hosts. In addition the NIA and various local clubs around the country presented Awards. Here is the list of winners:

NIA AWARDS	gald		
Dr. Fredrick L. Griffin Memorial Award – / Best Use of Threadless – "The Marriage of Intense Heat to	-		
Silica Sand" by Eloise Haltman.	Milholland Educational Award – "The Best of Ukraine Glass" by		
Porcelain – "New Lexington High Voltage Porcelain Company" by	Tom Katonak		
Elton Gish	National Show Host Plaques - were presented to Mike Bliss and Mike		
Specialty – "Denver Glass" by Mike Miller	Gaudy for hosting the 33rd NIA Na- tional Show.		
Color – "Blue vs Green" by Ron Yuhas	NIA 2002 Outstanding Service Award was given to Howard Banks for his project of free "Insulators For		
Foreign - "The Best of Ukraine Glass" by Tom Katonak	Kids" and promoting the hobby to younger collectors.		
Using Insulators As A Teaching	Outgoing President Steve Marks was presented with the President's Plaque for his two years of out- standing leadership.		
Go-Withs – "The McLaughlin Glass Company" by Dave Hall	Other Awards presented were:		
	CFIC Best First Time Display at a National – Sandy Ellison for "My Telephone Connections"		
Lightning Rod Equipment – "Color	DJIC Best Use of Threaded CDs in		

memory of Jim Overstreet – Ron Yuhas for "Blue VS Green"	3. The Mighty Blobtop by Steve Kelly	Jack Tod Memorial Award for Best Porcelain Display – Robin Harrison for "Porcelain with Character"
		A new Award was presented this year by The Chesapeake Bay Insu- lator Club for Best Use of Railroad
	Award (for someone who has pro- vided long time commitment and	Embossed Insulators. The winner w a s B i I I R o h d e f o r "InsulatorsPlus!"
Central & Southern Counties Club	service to the hobby) – Dick and Ev Bowman	At the Central and Southern Coun- ties Insulator Show in May 2002
nia Glass to Dave Hall for "The	Bob & Phoebe Adams Showman- ship Award – Sandy Ellison for "My Telephone Connections"	Fred Padgett reported that the NIA
		I am always ready to send an NIA ribbon to your show, just send an e- mail or give me a call.
Triple Ridge Insulator Club – Best of Show to Ron Yuhas for "Blue VS Green"	5	A special and personal THANK YOU to Carol McDougald taking and sharing the great photos of the
LSIC N.R. Woodward Literary	sippi Mud by Charles Bibb	winning display for the award cer- tificates. Thanks also to Dwayne
Award for Author of Best Research Article – The 3 finalists were:	Never Too Young by Leonard Gib- son and Laurie Haney	Anthony, Dave French and Doug Williams for serving on the Awards and Recognition Committee this
1. The Western Glass Manufactur- ing Company by Tom Katonak	The winner was Charles Bibb's Mississippi Mud	0
2. H.G. CO. Petticoat Beehive by Paul Rosenberger	Lon C. Holy Memorial Award - to Mike Gaudy	

awareness. The NIA website has

been the primary committee focus

over the last year as follows:

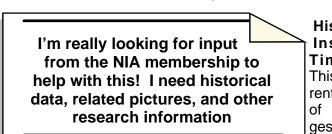
# FROM THE RESEARCH & EDUCATION CHAIR



Greetings fellow collectors! As

you can see, the promotion and education committee has been See http://www.nia.org for updates changed to research and educa- including: tion. More

focus will be spent on data and projects to s u p p o r t in sulator research, in addition to hobby education and



Historical Insulator Timeline: This is currently one of my biggest focus areas. The

idea is to provide a sequential view of key events in the history of insulator development. Key patents, technical milestones, insula-

tor manufacturing dates, and other related information is included. I'm really looking for input from the NIA membership to help with this! I need historical data, related pictures, and other research information (see the back page for my contact information). (See http:// www.nia.org/timeline/)

The Smithsonian Connection: This section is maintained by committee member Larry Novak and contains great pictures and information on insulators in the Smithsonian archives.

**2003 National:** The show information is available on-line for next years National in Ohio – Committee member Bill Meier pulled this section together as well as providing fantastic technical support for the overall site.

If anyone has articles or ideas for the NIA website or other research ideas or data, please contact me. I'd like to position the NIA website as a resource to encourage additional insulator research – There is still a ton of historical information that has yet to be discovered!

Thanks and Good Collecting!

Bob Berry, NIA #1203 RESEARCH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE



# Super NIA Product Sales at Colorado National!

NIA Product Marketing sold a record \$2351.00 at the Colorado National. I had hoped to meet last year's national, but exceeded that by nearly \$600!

It was brought up at the General Meeting that the Drip Points is not being read considerably by our membership or very thoroughly.

<u>I am offering a deal</u>, to all who read this particular issue of DP. If you order a lapel pin(s), I will offer free postage for the pin(s), just send along the order form and \$5.00 per pin, orders must be received by 11/02.

## Order your NIA engraved name badge today.....see order form on back page!

The NIA board and its chairpersons work very hard to keep this publication informative and you updated with the associations needs, issues, show updates, as well as, advances in education, promotion and research of the insulator hobby.

As always, I do my best to keep you "looking good" in representing the hobby! Product suggestions are always welcome. Thanks for showing support of your hobby,

> Carolyn Berry Product Marketing Chairman



# From the Treasurer

2001-2002 FINANCIAL REPORT NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION 6/30/2002

Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085 Treasurer

Beginning Balance-General Fund 7/1/2001   Museum Exploratory Committee 7/1/2001   Authentication/Ethics Account 7/1/2001		8853.38 972.01 1696.75
Revenues		
Donations	0.00	
Membership Dues	10879.00	
Miscellaneous Income	205.00	
Product Sales	2860.45	
	Total Revenues:	13944.45
General Fund Expenses		
Advertising	790.00	
Bank Charges/Taxes	5.00	
Marketing Products	1996.01	
Misc. Postage	1235.56	
Misc. Printing	1766.48	
Misc. Supplies	1009.90	
Misc. Professional Services	910.30	
Crown Jewels Rebates	166.00	
Drip Points Printing	2979.01	
Drip Points Postage	1307.98	
Show Advertising Subsidy	750.00	
Show Awards	1046.57	
Stationery Supplies	0.00	
Telephone	200.21	
Special Projects	837.40	
	Total Expenses:	15000.42
Closing Balance, General Fund:		7797.41
Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditures	0.00	
Museum Exploratory Committee Balance		972.01
Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures	0.00	4000 75
Authentication/Ethics Account Balance		1696.75
Total Balance on Hand 6/30/02		10466.17

# 2002 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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Ed Peters, NIA #6300 Central Region VP 5424 Dufferin Drive Savage, MN 55378 952-447-2422 edpeters@wavetech.net

Howard Banks, NIA #900 Western Region VP 1560 Hugo Road Merlin, OR. 97532 541-479-8348 hbanks@grantspass.com

Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085 Treasurer 131 Plantation Way Stockbridge, GA 30281 770-957-9928 pony102@bellsouth.net

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Kevin Jacobson, NIA #6720 Information Director 1102 West Aster Drive Phoenix, AZ 85029-2808 602-564-0815 kwjacob@uswest.net

Steve Marks, NIA #4951 First Past President 3655 W. Anthem Way, Suite A-109 Anthem, AZ 85086 623-551-1305 anthempostnet@earthlink.net

Kevin Lawless, NIA #1679 Second Past President 3363 Guilderland Avenue Schenectady, NY 12306 518-357-2333 kflbostons@aol.com

# STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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Rick Soller, NIA #2958 Historian 4086 Blackstone Avenue Gurnee, IL 60031 847-782-8602 com574@clc.cc.il.us

Bill Rohde, NIA #1219 By-Laws Post Office Box 1008 Williams, CA 95987 530-473-2461 mudman@colusanet.com

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Nominations 8 Tremont Trace Wimberly, TX 78676 512-847-7302 jackroach@email.msn.com

John McDougald, NIA #689 Authentication & Classification 5N941 Ravine Drive St. Charles, IL 60175 630-513-1544 cpamcd@aol.com

Sandy Ellison, NIA #6154 Awards & Recognition 11825 Lanceshire Circle Oklahoma City, OK 73162 405-721-6578 diamonds4me@worldnet.att.net

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

Bob Berry, NIA #1203 Research & Education 1010 Wren Court Round Rock, TX 78681 512-255-2006 pyrex553@aol.com

New Promotions Committee–Volunteers Needed

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<b>2003 NIA MEMBERSHIP</b> Submit,(In U.S.funds) To: (Payable to the NIA)   Note New Dues Schedule!   Regular Membership\$ 12.00 Family Membership\$ 12.00 Junior Membership (under 18) \$ 5.00 Club or Organization \$ 12.00	Joe J. Beres NIA Membership Director 1315 Old Mill Path Broadview Hts., Ohio 44147-3276	
(Check appropriate Class) Regular	Family Ju	inior
(Check Years of Payment) Single	year Multi-year	
<u>Please Print</u> Name		
NIA # (If Renewal)   Address   Address   City   State/Province   State/Province   Zip/Postal Code   Country (If Non U.S.)   Telephone Number   E-Mail Address   Please include me in the Annual NIA/Drip   Please include my Telephone Number.	(+4)  Points Directory. Yes I Yes I	No No
Please include my E-Mail Address	Yes I	No
Additional Fan	<u>iily Members</u>	
	Nia#	

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_



NATIONAL 1. INSULA OR

A SSOCIATIO

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

# NIA Logo Products ORDER FORM

	Price	Qty	Tota
Golf/Polo Shirt - pique, white cotton - 3 button tab - embroidered logo		•	
M L XL (\$27.00) 2X (\$29.00)	\$27 / \$29		
*for custom pocketed shirt or special size add \$3.00 for each	*\$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	\$32.00		
* <b>S/S</b> * <b>L/S</b> 2X	\$35.00		
T-Shirt Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weight - Screen-printed logo			
S M L XL (blue) 2X(\$12)(blue)	\$10.00		
M (Ash Gray; embroidered logo on left front, only!)	\$18.00		
L XL (\$15) or 2X 3X (\$16)-Ash Gray screen-printed	l		
**NEW** <u>NIA Lapel Pin</u> – 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)			. <u> </u>
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		
<b>Koozie<sup>TM</sup></b> The original <b>Koozie</b> <sup>TM</sup> fits any standard beer or soda can;			
silver NIA logo w/ royal blue red green	\$2.25		
<b>Decal</b> light blue w/ logo- red border; for inside car window	\$1.00		
Name Badge white badge w/ engraved blue letters -	\$11.00		
green and brown screen-printed logo			
<b>Badge Bar</b> white w/ engraved blue letters (ie. NIA position)	\$4.00		
	ıbtotal		
	S. Posta	000	
		0	
Tot	al Enclo	sed	

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

Name	P
Address	<b>**U.S. Postage</b> : Shirts, Caps & Mugs are <b>\$4.00</b> for the first item & <b>1.00</b> for each
City/State/Zip	additional item ordered. Postage for Patches, Decals, Pins or Name Badges/Bars are
Telephone	<b><u>\$50 per item.</u></b> ** <u>for non-US postage</u> , please contact me for exact postage quote!!
Email address	

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

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

Name	_ NIA #	City	 State	
Name	_ NIA #	City	 State	
Bar				

Rev. 6/02

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