NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION BALLOT

WESTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

Western Region Members Only:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please place your ballot in an envelope and return to:

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

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

[]	Howard Banks Merlin, OR.	NIA # 900	[]	Bob Merzoian NIA # 3941 Porterville, CA
NIA Men	nber Number			
Security	ID Number*			

NIA BALLOT

NIA BALLOT

NIA BALLOT



Drip Points



OUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

drippoints@nia.org http://www.nia.org

In this issue of *Drip Points*:

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

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

Several collectors have spent a

great deal of money on these pieces. The uncertainty as to the authenticity of these items has been the source of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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tree at between 110 and 112 years old. By our calculation, this

indicates that the tree in question did not even begin to grow until 1889 at the earliest.

Based on our investigation it is our opinion and belief that: (1) the tree section that was originally offered as evidence of a telegraph line where insulators were supposedly attached in the 1850s to 1860s, did not even exist at that time; (2) assuming that a tree would have to be at least 40 to 50 years

old to be large enough to (a) stand out in the forest, and (b) be selected for communication usage, at least a 70 year gap exists between when the bracket and block were supposed to have

been in service and when the tree started to grow.

The NIA Board contacted the individuals that had originally offered their "evidence of authenticity" to the R&A Committee and asked them for an explanation of the conflicting data. Rather than respond with answers to our questions, one of the individuals threatened legal action against the NIA and the NIA Board Members.

The NIA Board contacted the individuals that had originally offered their "evidence of authenticity" to the R&A Committee and asked them for an explanation of the

conflicting data. Rather than respond with answers to our ques-

tions, one of the individuals threatened legal action against the NIA and the NIA Board Members.

The NIA Board believes that it has an ethical obligation to the NIA General Membership and that it is duty bound to inform the General Membership of its opinions concerning the authenticity of insulators. Based on the investigative work outlined above.

the NIA urges its members to draw their own opinions as to the authenticity of the "Sierra Blocks."

Steve Marks, NIA #4951 NIA President

FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

NIA Executive Secretary Report Spring 2002

The insulator hobby has been going along at a steady pace and business is as usual following the events since last fall and the

I have noticed that

the insulator hobby

hobbies.

has been gaining more

respect among some of

the other glass related

slower economy. In fact, I know that many of the upcoming shows are almost booked. upcoming The 2002 year looks promising and. before long the National in Ft. Collins, CO will be

here. I hope to see many of you at these functions as well as some of the bottle and related type shows. On a personal note, my Hemingray research has continued and I have noticed that the insulator hobby has been gaining more respect among some of the other glass related hobbies. Because these collectors realize that these companies made some of the products that they collect, they now see the insulator hobby in a new light. Some of these related

hobbies include the fruit jar, early A merican pressed glass, oil lamp, and bottle hobbies. In some cases, it makes the insulator hobby more accepted

as a popular hobby. Another show this year is just that. The Mansfield, OH bottle show in May will have a small grouping of insulator dealers in attendance. This show is the largest one in the Midwest and it is nice to see this group include us.

On another note, the Research and Authentication Committee has been working diligently along with the NIA Board on several issues. I urge you to read the board's opinion under the President's column in this newsletter.

Robert B. Stahr, NIA #4186 NIA Executive Secretary

FROM THE ETHICS CHAIR

to make something seem real or genuine in order to fool or deceive. really what it is supposed to be; false: sham.

the inevitable parasites - the fakes. troduced into the hobby. as there have been collectors and fakes can have. The mere suspi- mark, the same insulator is sold As long as collectors cion collecting. seek rare and unusual items for f a k e d their collections, there will be those 123's calls who endeavor to provide these into quesspecimens; some legitimately, oth- tion ers not. As the prices for colorful authenticand rare insulators continue to rise, ity of all so will the temptation for some to o t h e r "cash in" on the increased demand. 123's, es-

locked away in collections for many cover. vears. The problem, however, is that when demand exceeds supply, highly questionable items begin to is clear. NIA Members: show up.

"Why are fakes bad?" you may ask. The short answer is that they Insulator collectors have, lect. Most of the value attributed to "wiggle room" in that clause. any particular insulator stems from the fact that very few others of its kind have survived, thus making it rare and highly sought-after by collectors. If you are going to pay a substantial sum of money for an reasonable assurance that the piece you are buying is original or "real". Fakes corrupt this process.

My dictionary defines fake as: v been fascinated by the odd shape spicuous spot such as the flat collar and many colors of the CD123 by the base of the pinhole or even E.C.& M.'s, and I own a bluish one on the base rim without affecting \vec{n} . a person or thing that is not filled with tiny bubbles. That one is, the display. I'm convinced, original and genuadj. not genuine or real; ine. It is the only CD123 in my col- help future collectors. I often hear lection. The reason I don't own any the argument that if the seller others is due to the tremendous knows the insulator is a fake and Infecting nearly every body of controversy in recent years alleging the buyer knows the insulator is a genuine, vintage collectibles are that fake E.C.& M.'s have been in fake, where's the harm? The po-Fakes have been around as long shows what a damaging effect ture when, without a permanent

of

The reason I don't own any others is due to the tremendous controversy in recent years alleging that fake E.C.& M.'s have been introduced into the hobby.

To do so with the genuine articles pecially for newer collectors seekis fine and welcomed by most col- ing to obtain their first example of is a fake? It's not always easy. lectors as it brings rare insulators this CD. This specialty area of in- Many fake or artificially induced back into the hobby that have been sulator collecting may never re-colors are widely known. Dwayne

is not plainly and permanently insulators known to exist.

the ones used to score your initials Use some common sense. "But won't that cut into the glass?" probably is.

It sure will, and that's the whole As an example: I have always point. It could be done in an incon-

> The purpose of marking is to This tential harm exists years in the fu-

> > again a n d this t i m e represented а genuine.

How can you tell if an insulator Anthony and others have done excellent work on documenting these. The NIA's position regarding fakes Check the NIA web site for more information. This and other re-"Shall not make or manufacture, search (such as John and Carol advertise, exhibit or introduce into McDougald's price quide) has prothe hobby for distribution (including duced a large and reliable databuying, selling or trading), any al- base of what is and is not possible undermine the integrity of the tered insulator or related item which to find when it comes to genuine as a group, done more than most marked "fake", unless pre-ever, just because a piece has hobbies to research and document approved by the NIA for educa- never been seen before doesn't the history of the artifacts we col- tional purposes." I don't see a lot of automatically mean it's not real. Real new and unknown insulators do appear from time to time, and In the above guideline, the term the faker tries to exploit this uncer-"permanently marked" is men-tainty. Be skeptical. If someone is tioned. I have been asked how to offering you an insulator in a neverpermanently mark an insulator as before-seen color at a bargain fake. The easiest way, I think, is to price, ask yourself why you should insulator, I think you would want a use an electric engraving pencil like be the recipient of such generosity. into a favorite crescent wrench, sounds too good to be true, it

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knowledgeable collectors if you have doubts.

Some collectors knowingly buy Before you do, however, please ask yourself if you are contributing to the long-term health of the hobby or just encouraging the Commemoratives have faker.

their place, but I can see no redeeming virtues in a fake.

It's often been said that imitation is the sincerest of flattery. But, not when it comes to an insulator!

No one has ever been able to ex-

plain to me how the introduction of unmarked fakes into the hobby could be a good thing.

Charles Bibb, NIA #6097 **Ethics Chairman**

FROM THE WESTERN REGION

Well, I'm thinkin that winter is just about on it's way out and that means "high season" for the insulator hobby is just about to start! Actually, the winter here has been pretty mild and I was able to get out looking on the old telegraph lines several times.

Of course, if you really want to collect insulators in the wintertime, you go south. And that's just what we've been doing for the past cou-

ple weeks. Again this year, Lynda and I drove out to Yuma Arizona to attend the Yuma Tailgater. 'Postcard

I drove out to Yuma Arizona to attend the Yuma Tailgater. 'Postcard weather': Not a cloud in the sky and the temperatures hovered in the low-seventies!

weather': Not a cloud in the sky and the temperatures hovered in the low-seventies! First time I've had a pair of shorts on in three months! The only downside was the unpleasant wind that got progressively worse as the day wore However, this did little to dampen the enthusiasm of dozens of collectors that showed up for the event. The "California Crowd" was there en-mass this year, along with contingents from Oregon, New Mexico and Arizona. I was impressed to meet folks from Canada and a couple of the northern states - but they were "wintering" in

drive to get to the tailgater. I don't events. By the time you are readknow what the final people count ing this, spring will be well on its was, I lost track. Some really great way and the planning for the insulaglass changed hands: I saw a yel- tor outings in full swing. Here in low Hemingray signal, various col- the west, there are a number of ored E C & Ms and some really great events on the docket, several wild Ukrainian pieces to name a focusing on joint insulator/bottle few. By mid-afternoon, most of the shows in California. heavy dealing was done and folks drifted off to other activities. Again, - March 8-9 in Chico, California: kudos to the Grand Canyon State Bidwell Bottle Club show at the Insulator Club for sponsoring what Silver Dollar Fairgrounds. appears to the leading edge of an Randy Taylor, evenings, (530) 345annual event! Lynda and I contin- 0519 if you need more info on this ued the venture by driving up to two-day event. Quartzite, Arizona to take in the

> that desert

amazing! lots of other collectibles to focus additional info. on. Earlier in the month there had been quite a number of irradiated - May 3-4 is the Washington Boters were not to be found while we Washington. Mineral Show. No insulators here, 6345 for more information. but lots of great mineral specimens, and...we even ran into long time - May 17-18, in Cayucos, Califorthan Alaska!

Yuma, so they didn't have a long Well, enough about the past

- huge flea March 22-23 in Morro Bay, Calimarket fornia: San Luis Obispo Bottle is and Insulator Club's 34th Annual staked Show and Sale at the Veteran's all Hall. Dick Tartaglia has additional over the information, call (805) 543-7484.
- around April 27, in Antioch, California: the town. The Golden Gate Historical Bot-Pretty tle Society's 35th Show and Sale. Didn't see any "good" Contra Costa Fairgrounds. Contact insulators for sale, but there were Steve Bava, (925) 757-7617 for
- insulators showing up, but the sell- tle Collectors Show in Enumclaw, This event will be were there. Next we went over to held at the King County Fairground. the World famous Tucson Gem and Contact Pete Hendricks, (253) 874-
- collectors Bernie and Madeline nia: Central and Southern Coun-Warren from Anchorage. They had ties Insulator Club's 10th Show at decided that southern Arizona just the Lions Veteran Hall. Get addihad to have more pleasant weather tional info from Paul Alleeson, (805) 527-1770.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

- June 1-2 are the dates for the 2nd Annual Insulator Show and Sale in Medford Oregon. The Jefferson State Insulator Club will again host this premier event at the National Guard Armory. Call Scott Morrell, (541) 608-1043 for more information.
- June 15, in Mountain View, California: The 6th Annual San Francisco Bay Area Insulator Show hosted by the Nor-Cal Insulator Club, and held at the T.L Mobile Home Park Club House. Call Dave Elliott, (650) 988-1893 for

more info.

- And finally, the Ft. Collins National Show, July 5-7. Call Mike Gaudy for details, (970) 225-0280, or visit the show website at www.insulators.com/2002national.

By the way, did you know that the www.insulators.com website has an updated list of all the shows?

Finally, just a note to tell you that I've enjoyed being the Western VP for the past couple years so much that I decided to run for NIA President for the upcoming term. I would be proud to represent the entire hobby in this position should

I be elected or appointed!

Well, that's it for the spring report. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the shows and the hunts. Give me a call if you've got any thoughts, ideas or concerns regarding happenings in the Western Region. I'm always looking for

Regards,

Tom Katonak. NIA #3567 **Western Region Vice President**

FROM THE EASTERN REGION

Greetings and Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a very enjoyholiday able season. Due to the lack of cold and snow late last year, I did manage to

I say go for it! The heat is down, the bugs and snakes are gone. Let's bring some more great insulators into the hobby!

get out for a few late season digs, the last being on Dec. 27th with 1" of snow on the ground. We were moderately successful, which gives me some hope for this spring. Now for you collectors down south, it's your turn! After reading Charles Bibb's excellent article in the December issue of Crown Jewels, I say go for it! The heat is down, the bugs and snakes are gone. Let's bring some more great insulators into the hobby! Trust me, they are still out there. There are a lot of great shows and swap meets coming up this year. I attended the Western Reserve Insulator Clubs

(W.R.I.C.) Winterfest" swapmeet in Annual spring show in Tarentum, Strongsville, Ohio on 17th. A nice assortment of begin-

ner to "middle April 7th able. Nothing show! exotic really walked in, but April 27th of new collec- Ontario tors which, as

far as I'm concerned, are more im- May 10th-11th portant to our hobby. A good get Mansfield, Ohio together to start off the year.

Also coming up are:

March 2nd

Maryland Line, Maryland tor show hosted by The Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club miss this one!

March 16th

The Deland M-T Bottle Collectors Show Deland, Florida

March 23rd

Western Reserve Insulator Club 2nd

January Pennsylvania (near Pittsburgh)

of the road" Yankee Pole Cat Spring Bottle, Intypes of insula- sulator, and Collectables Show tors were avail- Enfield Connecticut Another great

there were a Ottawa Valley Insulator Collectors goodly number 4th Annual get together in Perth,

W.R.I.C. in conjunction with the 24th Annual Ohio **Bottle Club Show**

May 18th

Huron Valley Bottle and Insulator Insula- Club Show in LaSalle, Michigan

Don't May 31st -June 1st

8th Annual Hog Roast and Insulator Swap at the home of Alan Stastny In Union, Ohio

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

FROM THE CENTRAL REGION

Let's see what should I write this time. I run into this question during this season every year. There are not many shows in the upper Central Region this time of year, and scavenging for insulators is tough since everything is under a couple feet of snow. It's usually

The "You crazy

American." look that I got

told me that there aren't to

many insulator collectors in

Sudan.

way to cold, but this year has been pretty mild. In fact at our club meeting in January we had a swap meet on our driveway! That's

got to be a first in Minnesota.

My neighbors think I might be a bit touched because I collect insulators. They can't seem to understand why anyone would spend time or money on this odd hobby. I've tried to reason with them, but to no avail. I don't know maybe it's the telegraph equipment, telephones, porcelain signs, RR lantern, RR conductors buttons, RR passes, German beer mugs and HO trains that I've accumulated over the years. Except for the HO model railroad equipment, I've been able to rationalize that they

are all related to insulators in some way. Go withs if you will. Telephone and telegraph used insulators. Telephone and telegraph companies used porcelain signs. Railroads used insulators, and I'm sure that some German immigrant insulator company employees drank beer. Ok so that ones a little stretch.

Anyway
during the
driveway
swap meet,
people
slowed way
down and
stared. I
guess they
thought it
was a rather

odd-looking garage sale. Some actually stopped before they realized there wasn't any baby My Sudanese clothes or tools. neighbor next door came over during the swap meet and apologized all over the place for being such a bad neighbor. I was a bit confused he's always been a good neighbor. So after he was done begging my forgiveness, I finally got to the bottom of his great sorrow. It seems that he had to take his mother to the airport and she saw the swap meet. She thought we were moving or something, and we had all of these people helping us. She lit

into him about how bad of a neighbor he was for not helping a neighbor in need...all the way to the airport. (Must have been a fun ride.) I explained to him several times that everything was ok, and that I didn't need any help.

I could tell when I finally got through to him, he had that look; you know the one. That "You collect what?" look. I know you've all seen it, you're insulator collectors too.

The "You crazy American." look that I got told me that there aren't to many insulator collectors in Sudan. I wonder what his mother thought when he told her about the strange neighbor next door that collects insulators.

Ok I'm done rambling, my neighbors still don't understand. But I guess I'll just have to live with that. I hope to see you at the Wheaton Show in April. See you there, and be safe.

Ed Peters, NIA #6300 Central Region Vice President

FROM THE HISTORIAN

The advent of fiber optics, coaxial cable, and microwave transmission pretty much ended the need for glass insulators. Will we ever see something similar happen to porcelain insulators? Two separate events suggest this possibility.

The November/December 2001 issue of Insulator News and Market Report provided an interesting review of the use of insulators on transmission lines in China. Since 1990, the article reported, the number of polymer insulators used in China has grown from a negligible number to over 800,000.

Porcelain is no longer the most common insulator installed on these lines. Research and experience showing porcelain's inferiority to polymers plus developments in polymers which are overcoming some of its weaknesses will further erode porcelain's market.

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A second event argues the point from a different angle. Last year I had the opportunity to investigate the Canadian Porcelain company of Hamilton, Ontario. I didn't realize the company was out of busi-

ness. In the archives of McMaster University, I further found that Lapp owned the company for the last 2 years of the company's life, buying factory the

Research and experience showing porcelain's inferiority to polymers plus developments in polymers which are overcoming some of its weaknesses will further

erode porcelain's market.

when CP went into receivership. This purchase was very heated, especially when Lapp eventually closed the doors on the company. Ironically, part of why CP got into trouble is that Lapp and NGK were "dumping" insulators onto the Canadian market. This sale of insulators for a price less than they sold them domestically was even-

tually ruled to be illegal but the ruling was too late to save CP. The purchase by Lapp and the eventual closina the plant is part of trend toward

consolidation in the industry. Lapp is actually in the forefront of this movement. An ad in INMR an-

nounces another consolidation in the industry with Lapp's acquisition of CeramTec of Germany. Much like the final days of the glass insulator industry when only Hemingray and Armstrong/Kerr were left, the same is occurring in the porcelain industry.

Rick Soller, NIA # 2958 Historian

FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR

Winter is about to leave South Texas and Spring is springing. Hope everyone got a special insulator under the Christmas Tree.

There are two NIA Offices that will become vacant in July. I asked in the last issue of "Drip Points" for candidates for NIA President and NIA Western Region Vice President. I received two resumes for the Western Region Vice Presi-

dent. Only one candidate came forward for the office of President and therefore, the candidate for the NIA President's

position is running unopposed. In accordance with the NIA bylaws, that individual wins by acclimation

and no ballot is required.

The two NIA members interested in running for the Western Region Vice President are:

Howard Banks, Merlin, Oregon

and

I will announce the names

of our new President and the

Western Region Vice President

at the NIA business meeting

during the 2002 National

Convention in Ft. Collins

Bob Merzoian, Porterville, California

Resumes for these candidates are included in this issue of "Drip

Also included is a paper Ballot for those members in the Western Region who do

Points".

access to the Web. For those who do have access to the web, there

is a Ballot link on the NIA Home Page. Please send your Ballot to me (either by snail mail or on the web through the NIA Home Page) by June 15, 2002. Your individual Security ID # needs to be included on the Ballot, and this ID is located on your mailing label on this issue of "Drip Points".

I want to at this time to THANK all three candidates, on behalf of the entire membership, for their willingness to volunteer there time and expertise to further our hobby.

I will announce the names of our new President and the Western Region Vice President at the NIA business meeting during the 2002 National Convention in Ft. Collins.

Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Nominations Chairman

HOWARD BANKS

My name is Howard Banks. I'm a corrections sergeant for the Josephine County Sheriff in Grants Pass, Oregon. My wife, Linda, and I have been married for 23 years. We have a 17-year-old son, David, and a 15-year-old daughter, Christa.

I've been collecting insulators since the mid-1960's. I got a break in the hobby in 1967 when, along with a friend, we found an abandoned line of CD 321 Knowles insulators on the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah. We literally filled up our car with them till there was no more room.

In those days, the focus of the hobby was on CD styles. We traded the 321's straight across for cobalt, purple and amber Hemingray and H.G. Co. signals, as

well as many other desirable insulators.

I sold my collection in 1969 to help pay my way through college. In college, I became a dealer selling, primarily, amber H G Co beehives. I was paying \$10 each for them, and selling them for \$30.

I collected again in the mid-1970's, serving the N-I-A under the presidency of Ernie Rostock. Then I got married, and money was needed for raising a family. Insulators were set aside, but never really forgotten.

My interest in the hobby was renewed in earnest in 1997. I exhibited Fred M Locke porcelain insulators at the NIA National in Scottsdale in 1999, winning an award for best porcelain display. Later that year I assisted others in helping to organize the Jefferson

State Insulator Club. Our club hosted the Western Regional Show this year in Medford.

I started the "Jefferson Juniors" for the teenage members of our club. Currently, I'm spearheading a drive to give insulators away to kids. I strongly believe that the future of our hobby hinges on stimulating the interest of youthful collectors.

My collection is specialized. I like colored CD 162's, EC&M's in various mold varieties, and historic artifacts from the first telegraph lines built in Northern California and Southern Oregon (1858-1864).

It would be a privilege for me to serve as NIA Western Regional Vice-President. Thank you for your support.

BOB MERZOIAN

My name is Bob Merzoian. I live in Porterville, Calif. I am married to Rosemary. We are elementary school teachers. We have two children...Sarah, age 7 and Michael, age 4...both current and future collectors.

I began collecting in the early 70's with friend and fellow collector Duane Davenport. Naturally our first pieces were Hemi 42's, "B" beehives, and purple Cal 162's...we were smitten with the beauty and history of insulators...as my collection has grown, so has my knowledge and sophistication. I specialize in color, amber infusions, and UFO's. Some of the C.D.'s I favor are 162's, 145'2, 121's, 151's, and 152's.

I am a member of the Central/ Southern Counties Insulator Club and the Nor-Cal Insulator Club. I enjoy the association with members of these clubs and have come to know them as friends...not just as collectors.

This is one of the great aspects of the hobby...building a network of friends in various places. I regularly attend the Tulare, Cayucos, and Rhode Ranch shows. I have gone to several nationals as well as other miscellaneous shows. My brother Mark and I put on our second-annual Merzoian Brothers tailgater last month.

I would enjoy being involved in the political area of the hobby as the Western Region NIA Vice President. I feel we need our leadership

to help guide us through these uncertain times...i.e.E-Bay and other auction sites, fake and altered insulators, escalating prices, drops in show attendance, the task of fostering new collector growth, etc. We need to make a united effort to solve problems and promote this most unusual and wonderful insulator hobby. I have served on many boards over the years (from college days on) which would enhance my usefulness. If elected, I will serve our organization to the best of my ability. Thank you and I am asking for your vote.

Thanks

Bob Merzoian

...DRIP NOTES

- Many NIA Logo items available!
- Do you have your insulator collection insured? NIA sponsored insurance is available for information on some of the available companies contact:

 Kevin Jacobson (NIA Information Director) at 602-564-0851 or kwjacob@uswest.net
- Want to play a bigger part in the NIA? Volunteers are always needed. Write to Steve Marks and tell him what you're good at!
- Moving? Send change of address to Joe Beres (and save us the cost of resending your copy of *Drip Points*. *Each returned Drip Points costs the NIA \$0.85 plus the cost of printing it in the first place)*.

Spring has sprung a new product!

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

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

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

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

I would like to thank the individual who had emailed me asking why we didn't have lapel pins?

This note sparked my research into this product suggestion and voile!

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

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

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

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

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

Beginning Balance-General Fund 10/1/2001 Museum Exploratory Committee Authentication/Ethics Account		7046.49 972.01 1696.75
Revenues		
Donations Membership Dues Miscellaneous Income Product Sales	0.00 1097.00 25.00 396.60 Total Revenues:	1518.60
General Fund Expenses		
Advertising Bank Charges/Taxes Marketing Products Misc. Postage Misc. Printing Misc. Supplies Misc. Professional Services Crown Jewels Rebates Drip Points Printing Drip Points Postage Show Advertising Subsidy Show Awards Stationery Supplies Telephone Special Projects	595.00	4553.98
Closing Balance, General Fund: Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditures Museum Exploratory Committee Balance Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures Authentication/Ethics Account Balance Total Balance on Hand January 1, 2002	0.00 0.00	4011.11 972.01 1696.75 6679.87

2002 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Marks, NIA #4951 President 3655 W. Anthem Way, Suite A-109 Anthem, AZ 85086 623-551-0873 anthempostnet@earthlink.net

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

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Bob Stahr, NIA #4186 **Executive Secretary** 515 Carriage Drive, 2D West Chicago, IL 60185 630-231-4171 bob@hemingray.com

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

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Rick Baldwin, NIA #336 Second Past President 1931 Thorpe Circle Brusnwick, OH 44212 330-225-3576 rsbaldwin@worldnet.att.net

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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



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

NIA LOGO Products ORDER FORM

		Price	Qty	Total					
<i></i>	Golf/Polo Shirt – pique, white cotton - 3 button tab - embroidered logo								
L D-Z-NIA	M L XL (\$27.00) 2X (\$29.00) *for custom pocketed shirt or special size add \$3.00 for each	\$27 / \$29 *\$3.00							
NIA LOGO Large Logo on back	Tor custom pocketed shift or special size and \$5.00 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							
Rough Issued Iss	* S/S * L/S 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							
(Channet 2)	L XL (\$15) or 2X 3X (\$16)-Ash Gray screen-printed	1							
INSULÁ 98 America	**NEW** <u>NIA Lapel Pin</u> – etched/enamel; NIA logo								
	Characterista Harris and the Arth Court Court and the Harris								
	Sweatshirt Heavy weight - Ash Gray - Screen-printed logo S M (\$16.00) L XL (\$20.00) 2X (\$22.00)								
National 1	(#20.00) 211 (#20.00)								
INSULA OR	Embroidered Cap Stone/Navy, low-rise, embroidered logo	\$16.00							
Association	Cap Lt. Grey, screen-printed logo	\$10.00							
	Mug white ceramic w/ screen-printed logo	\$7.00							
	Patch light blue back w/ embroidered logo/red embroidered edge	\$4.00							
	Koozie Foam beverage holder w/ silver NIA logo :								
לעו	royal blue red green	\$2.25							
	Deed light him yy/logo and houdon for inside con window	¢1.00							
	Decal 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								
	Badge Bar white w/ engraved blue letters (ie. NIA position)	\$4.00							
<u>Chest Size Ch</u> S (32-34) M (36-38)		ubtotal							
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