

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

It's hard to believe that Summer is almost over and Fall's almost here. Time just shouldn't fly this fast! It has been a great summer, capped for my bride and me by a fantastic three-week trip to the East Coast – and the National Convention at Williamsburg. This was a wonderful show, and you're destined to hear more about it in the reports that follow. Part of the "wonderfulness" for us was seeing and visiting with our many friends in Tennessee, Virginia, Maryland and Ohio. And we saw a couple of really fine insulator collections in Missouri and Oklahoma. On the

long drive back to sunny New Mexico, we took many of the by-ways, staying off the Interstates. This allowed us to focus on the scenic beauty that is America. One special place stands out as a point of interest that you all might share. Near the little town of Grove, Oklahoma, on the far eastern side of the state, and just 15 miles south of I-44, lies the historic museum of Har-Ber Village. This village houses a huge collection of artifacts relating back to life in the pioneer days and contains well over a hundred major displays of building, furniture, musical instruments, antiques, tools, farm implements,

china, glassware and Civil War memorabilia. All this stuff is Smithsonian grade material and it's simply amazing to me that I had never heard of Har-Ber Village before. But the best...the best was that they had a really fine insulator collection on display, donated by someone long ago. So if you're ever headed through Tulsa on one of your trips (to next year's National in Scottsdale??), take the half-day to visit this attraction. Oh, by the way, it's free!

Once back to Corrales, I soon

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear fellow NIA members:

I am most pleased to have been elected by my peers to serve as President of the National Insulator Association. I shall do my utmost to preserve the work that my predecessors have accomplished and to promote the values of collecting and researching electrical insulators.

First, I would like to offer my thanks to several members of the past Board: To Rick Baldwin, who now serves as First Past President, who, as President, saw us through some touchy issues over the past two years; to Dwayne Anthony, who completed six years as President and Past President on the Board and now sees his term completed; and to Bill Meier who performed some fine work as Eastern Region Vice President for the past three years. I would also like to thank three outgoing committee chairs: David and Karen Wiecek of the Promotions and Education Committee, who have chosen to end their three year term; and Jill Meier of the Product Marketing Committee, who ends five very successful years in that capacity. Thank you all for your fine service to the NIA.

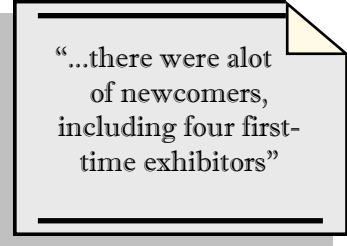
As an organization, the NIA is quite strong, has some excellent leadership and has had positive long-term vision. There are several ongoing projects that we see will benefit the membership and will improve the ability of the NIA to accomplish the goals as set forth by the membership and by the Board. There are several ways that I would like to improve our ability to communicate – with clubs, members, non-members and fledgling collectors. First, we

need to target a growing community, many of who have not taken advantage of learning about the organized hobby of collecting, and that is the Internet. To that aim, I have appointed as the new Chairman of the Promotions and Education Committee, Bob Berry of Round Rock, Texas. Bob is a long-time collector and NIA member, active in the Lone Star and Capital District Insulator Clubs and, as a long-term employee of IBM, has immense knowledge of data networking and the Internet. He will chair the committee, but not be its sole member. One of his tasks will be to investigate the creation of an official NIA Web site, with links to both Crown Jewels and Insulators.Com, and ways that the 15 current clubs can be assisted by this as well. This will take time, but I am confident in Bob's ability. A video is still something that would be advantageous, and I have already communicated some possible sources to Bob.

As the new Chairwoman of the Product Marketing Committee, I have selected Caroline Berry of Round Rock, Texas. Caroline is not the typical insulator widow (!) and wanted to participate in Bob's hobby, and is very outgoing, so she will work out very well. Caroline, Joe Beres and I will be strategizing about ways that we can take advantage of NIA Products and Membership being offered live at shows by several committee members, and will have a committee appointed soon.

I am very confident in the abilities of Mike Guthrie, Tom Katonak, Joe Beres and Rick Soller and they will be continuing in their positions. I still have to touch base with a couple of committee members and will have my final committee detail soon.

The 1998 National Show in Williamsburg, Virginia has just concluded and Mark Becher and his wife Marcia Wills hosted a wonderful show. I'll leave others to comment more, but there were several positives that I feel the need to comment on. First, the show was definitely upbeat, despite a little rain and the



“...there were a lot of newcomers, including four first-time exhibitors”

unexpected lack of a drinking hole to slake one's thirst. Second, the walk-through was steady for all three days, which was a nice sign. Third, there were a lot of newcomers, including four first-time exhibitors. One, especially, made a big impact. Gary Dexter (aka Jon E. Wreb!) from Tryon, North Carolina was attending his first insulator show and had a knockout display of Southern Porcelain Co. insulators and go-withs, taking home (I think) six awards. A display like that is talked about for a long time and helps make a show memorable. Thank you, Gary and wife Ginger, for sharing your exhibit with us, and congratulations on your well-earned rewards.

I feel good about our hobby. Are there problems? Of course there are. Are there ways to improve things? Absolutely, and we are working on some solutions today. Can you help? Yes, by contributing your ideas for improvement, by letting us know of some particular way that you can help your hobby and the NIA and your local club, all of which are important. In the next issue of Drip Points, I will devote my entire contribution to the visit that Doug

(Continued on page 4)

FROM THE EASTERN REGION

I would like to extend my thanks to all that took the time to vote in this year's election. When the results were tallied, 54% of our membership had cast votes (much better than the numbers in most U.S. presidential elections!). Again, thanks for your support!

I've just returned from a family vacation to Williamsburg, VA, where we attended the 29th NIA National. This was a great show, with the largest variety of insulators I have seen in quite some time. Colored porcelain, multis, foreign, threadless, power, colored signals, some great California pieces, fantastic displays. The list goes on and on. I managed to acquire a long-sought-after M-2420 Lima, NY, which was the highlight of the show for me.

The Williamsburg area was a great place for a family vacation. Colonial Williamsburg, Busch Gardens, Water Country USA, nearby shopping, parks and affordable restaurants all added up to an enjoyable and relaxing experience. Many thanks to show co-hosts Marcia and Mark Becher, and Jim Frustieri for locating a show site so conveniently within this interesting and entertaining

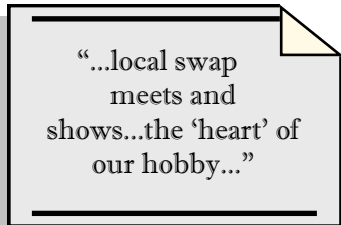
area.

I attended my first official board meeting at the show and a number of items were discussed. Please be aware of a number of altered insulators originating in Florida and appearing in the southeast. These were common, clear pieces that have been irradiated to a muddy amber color. Please alert your fellow collectors if any of these are spotted at flea markets or antique shows.

Also, the testing of the first selection of questionable glass insulators and lightning rod balls has started, and hopefully we'll have some results in a couple months. I will also try to put together a portable black light box, which can be used to view known or suspected repairs. If I can come up with a practical design, I will have it available at shows/swap meets I attend.

There are several shows and get-togethers coming up this Fall in the eastern region that are worth stopping in for. The first is the Yankee Polecats Swap Meet and cookout on September 12th, hosted by Larry Emmons at Emmons' Golden Pond'. A one-day show in Kulpville, PA on September 26th should be a goodie. Contact Jim Frustieri for

details. Larry Craft can give you some info on the 13th Semi-Annual Gulf Coast Swap Meet in Havana, FL on October 24th. On October 25th, the CDIC and the Capital Region Bottle Club will co-host a show and sale in Albany, NY. Contact Kevin Lawless if you're interested in attending. I encourage everybody to attend your local swap meets and shows.



These are the "heart" of our hobby and provide a wealth of information, ideas and personal

friendships.

Lastly, keep looking for those "jewels", be they glass, porcelain, or friends you haven't met.

Good Luck and Good Collecting,

Ken Willick, NIA #3709
Eastern Region Vice President

NIA NIA

FROM THE CENTRAL REGION

As I said in the last report, I had expected to see some Central Region NIA members in attendance at the National and I wasn't let down. Although most of the Central Region attendees seem to have been from Ohio, the states of Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Texas were also well represented.

This year's National in Williamsburg, VA was a success and congratulations should go to Mark Becher, Jim Frustieri, Gus Stafford and the rest of the Chesapeake Bay Insulator Club for hosting such a wonderful event.

During the NIA Membership meeting the official announcement was made that the NIA is having a

select group of items tested in hopes of determining the legitimacy of suspect insulators. The test is a non-destructive chemical analysis being performed by an agency that is well known throughout the country. I am hoping that this test may finally put to rest the problems associated with some suspect pieces in our hobby. This test however, will NOT identify items that have been

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 7)

employment to point out the noncompany use of equipment if such was the case.

-Jackie Linscott asked about the availability of Dwayne Anthony's display of altered insulators for use at local shows. This exhibit is available for any NIA sanctioned show with postage reimbursed by the NIA for shipment both ways. Contact Dwayne to arrange for the display.

-Butch Haltman asked about the assignment of classification numbers. This is part of the ongoing work of the Research and Authentication committee.

6. Dudley Ellis reported on the results of the last election.

-Thanks to everyone who ran including Jimmy Burns, Kevin Lawless, and Bill Meier who ran for president, and Larry Novak and Ken Willick who ran for Eastern Region Vice President.

-The elections produced one of the largest turnouts with 52% of NIA members voting for president and 54% of eastern members voting for V.P.

-Kevin Lawless was elected president with 219 votes (50%), followed by Bill Meier with 140 votes (32%), followed by Jimmy Burns with 78 votes (18%).

-Ken Willick was elected Eastern V.P. with 103 votes (62%) followed by Larry Novak with 64 votes (38%).

7. Kevin Lawless spoke about his goals as the new president.

-He pointed out that 15 clubs is a record, that they were active clubs, and that Nationals were being hosted by them.

-New board members were announced. David Wiecek will be replaced by Bob Berry. Continuing on will be Mike Guthrie (Treasurer), Joe Beres (Membership), Tom Katonak (Information Director), and Rick Soller (Executive Secretary).

-One pet project that he will focus on is the NIA History. There have been some disappointments in the past but he would like to see the archives cataloged and made available to members. To get the ball rolling, he donated copies of newsletters from two defunct

insulator clubs and photos from the first national. He challenged local clubs to catalog and contribute their newsletter.

-On a few personal notes: Pete & Lillian Bish are celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary. Clarice Gordon who could not make the show at the last minute sent greetings and informed everyone of the availability of her new book on Hemingway. A round of applause was given for Rick Baldwin as the outgoing president.

Motion to adjourn made by Mike Guthrie, seconded by Dudley Ellis. Adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Rick Soller, NIA #2958
Executive Director**

...DRIP NOTES

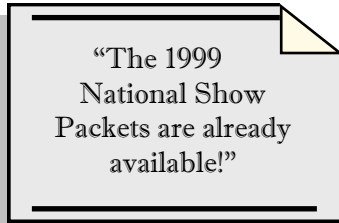
- NIA T-shirts now available for kids! (See Product Marketing note)
- Moving?? Send your change of address to Joe Beres, Membership Chairman
- Do you have your insulator collection insured? NIA sponsored insurance is available
- Dwayne Anthony's display of altered insulators is available for your show: Contact Dwayne at (909) 862-9279 (or blobtop126@aol.com)
- Bill Meier reports there are now 550 subscribers on the ICON!
- Thanks to Shaun Kotlarsky and Don Reinke for the digital photos used in this issue

FROM THE BY-LAWS CHAIR

During the NIA Board Meeting in Williamsburg, the Board unanimously approved a revision to the "NIA General Show Floor Rules" and the "NIA Position on Fakes and Reproductions." These revisions were necessary so that these two directives would not conflict with the recently revised "NIA Code of Ethics."

The most significant change is the addition of the "Questionable" insulator category. Many Board and Committee Chairmen feel that there are insulators out there that cannot be definitively categorized as an "imitation" or "altered" insulator, yet these pieces still don't seem "right". A discussion during the revision to the "NIA Code of Ethics" led to the suggestion that an appropriate remedy for such a situation might be to simply label the insulator as "questionable," until further testing or proof can be offered that would indicate that the insulator is "original" or something else. Below are the revised directives. They were already included in the 1999 National Show Packet that was handed out in Williamsburg.

Speaking of the 1999 National, Melanie and I are pleased to report that we have already surpassed the half-way point in table sales (55/110), and display commitments (12/21). Hotel rooms are already being booked, and we have already sold 12 banquet tickets! All of this within 10 days of the Williamsburg National and before news of the 1999 National had even hit CJ! The 1999 Show Packets are already available so please don't hesitate to contact us



"The 1999 National Show Packets are already available!"

at 602-473-7014 or at [gcsic @ insulators. com!](mailto:gcsic@insulators.com) I have the feeling that this show is going to sell out quickly, particularly because of the discounted airfare and superb resort hotel rates that we have arranged for. So make your plans early to come to Scottsdale! Thanks for your support!

NIA General Show Floor Rules

These Floor Rules have been adopted by the NIA Board as a guide to proper conduct of individuals at insulator shows, and they are to be publicized to all show participants and attendees. Only items #1 through #7 are of concern to the general public. All items, #1 through #18, are of concern to the sales table dealers and exhibitors.

1. All participants shall abide by the NIA Code of Ethics.
2. Participants shall not knowingly misrepresent the attribution, condition, rarity or value of insulators or related items they offer for sale or trade.
3. All categories of insulators as defined in the NIA Code of Ethics shall be both marked and marketed with respect to the mandates for such, as specified in the NIA Code of Ethics. With respect to addressing proper conduct at NIA sanctioned shows "Questionable Insulators," are insulators about which there is uncertainty, as to whether they are original, imitation, altered or restored. Dealers and exhibitors shall honor and comply with all requests from show hosts and/or NIA officials which pertain to any items deemed by them to be categorized as "questionable." Such requests may involve labeling or removal from sales

tables or exhibits. It shall be the show host's responsibility to strictly enforce this rule and the decision of the show hosts shall be final.

4. All restored or repaired items on sales tables must be clearly labeled as such.
5. All show participants and the attending public shall respect any show rules in force with respect to local ordinances and restrictions imposed by the owner of the facility.
6. Positively no public attendance during show set-up hours.
7. "Aisle dealing" by the attending public will not be permitted.
8. It will not be permissible for sales table dealers to "work the aisles" in any fashion which preempts the opportunities of fellow dealers.
9. Dealer side shows (spotlights, excessive cow bell ringing, etc.), shall not be carried to the point of being abusive to fellow dealers and the general public.
10. Dealers will not sub-let all or portions of tables without first consulting with the show chairman and obtaining permission.
11. Dealers shall keep aisles in front of tables free of boxes and clutter.
12. Dealers are encouraged to not leave their uncovered tables unattended at any time and do so at their own risk of loss.
13. Dealers should keep their sales tables intact until the end of the published show hours. There will be exceptions made for those

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

driving long distances or needing to make other travel connections, but advance arrangements should be made with the show chairman when making table reservations. The chairman reserves the right to locate such table on the outer aisle or near exits to avoid disruption of the rest of the show with any early departures. The chairman may announce blanket authority for early takedown at such time as public attendance appears to have essentially ceased anytime Sunday afternoon.

14. Dealers and exhibitors will be responsible for any damage they do to the facilities with their set-up practices. Please no thumbtacks and no signs or other items taped to walls or furnishings.

15. The NIA and the show hosts will make every effort to provide good security, but neither will be responsible for any loss of participant property due to theft, loss or breakage. Each dealer and exhibitor is asked to help in security by watching after his own items and by keeping an eye on adjacent tables in situations of obvious risk.

16. At the NIA National Show only, exhibitors and sales table

dealers who offer a substantial amount (over 25% of table), of insulators and/or "related items" must be NIA members.

17. The reservation of a sales table or an exhibit space constitutes the acceptance of these rules and agreement to comply with them.

18. All show hosts of NIA sanctioned shows shall secure an NIA approved agreement from dealers and exhibitors.

NIA Position on Fakes and Reproductions

1. Guidelines for the permanent marking of various categories of insulators and items are specified in the NIA Code of Ethics. The goal is that the existence of appropriate markings will cause the prospective purchaser to easily recognize that an item is an imitation, a commemorative or has been altered or restored, or cause him/her to question its authenticity.

2. We are asking that hosts of NIA sanctioned shows (and hopefully all insulator shows whether sanctioned or not), note the rules and the applicable Code of Ethics definitions and mandates pertinent to "fakes and reproduction" items in their Dealer

Agreement, in addition to providing a copy of the NIA General Show Floor Rules to all participants.

3. We are asking that show hosts monitor the tables during the set-up and conduct of the show and take appropriate action if improperly marked and/or "questionable" items appear on tables. It is understood that the show host will have the full support of the NIA for enforcement of the standards set forth. Any NIA Board member(s) and/or designated NIA representative who may be in attendance at an NIA sanctioned show, will provide active assistance should a show host require such in resolving any violation of the NIA standards.

4. NIA sanctioned shows are by definition National and Regional shows but can be defined as any show where the NIA ribbon is to be awarded for exhibits.

5. In addition, we are asking that all NIA member (and hopefully non-members), observe the rules pertaining to "fakes and reproductions" not only at shows, but at all times when dealing with their fellow collectors, including mail order transactions

Steve Marks, NIA #4951

AWARDS AT THE WILLIAMSBURG NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dr. Frederick L. Griffin Memorial Award (Best of Threadless): **Doug McGillvary**

NIA Best of Category Awards

Color: **Jim Frustieri**

Foreign Insulators & Relateds: **Eric Johnson and Anne**

General: **Carl Rusk**

Go-Withs: **Tom and Alice Moulton**

Porcelain: **Gary Dexter**

Specialty: **Bob Jones**

Lightning Rod Equipment: **John McDougald**

Milholland Educational Award: **Doug MacGillvary**

Bob & Phoebe Adams Showmanship Award: **John McDougald**

Capital District Insulator Club Award (Best Exhibit Using Eastern Insulators): **Gary Dexter**

Central Florida Insulator Collectors Award (Best First Time Display at a National): **Gary Dexter**

Len Linscott Pioneer Award: **John and Carol McDougald**

Central/Southern Counties Insulator Club Award (Best Exhibit Using Southern California Insulators): **Carl Rusk**

Dixie Jewels Insulator Club Award (Best Use of CD's, in memory of Jim Overstreet): **Bob Jones**

Greater Chicago Insulator Club Award (Best Exhibit Using Power Insulators): **Fred Collier**

N.R. Woodward Literary Award - Lone Star Insulator Club (Author of Best Research Article): **Gary Dexter**

Nor-Cal Insulator Club Award (Best Exhibit Using Western Insulators): **Carl Rusk**

Crown Jewels of the Wire Award (People's Choice): **Bob Stahr**

Sterling Finch Memorial Award (Dedication to the Hobby of Insulator Collecting) **Williamsburg Rgnl Library**

Lon C. Holy Award (Donation by Larry & Mary Beth Veneziano): **Gus Stafford**

Jack Tod Memorial Award: **Gary Dexter**

National Show Host's Plaque: **Mark Becher, Gus Stafford, Jim Frustieri**

Show Host's People's Choice Award: **Gary Dexter**

NIA Outstanding Service Award: **Dwayne Anthony**



GARY DEXTER'S MULTI AWARD-WINNING NATIONAL SHOW DISPLAY

FINANCIAL REPORT

1998-1999 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KEVIN LAWLESS, NIA #1679, **PRESIDENT**
41 CRESTWOOD DRIVE, SCHENECTADY, NY
12306-3433
(518) 355-5688

RICK SOLLER, NIA # 2958, **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
4086 BLACKSTONE AVE, GURNEE, IL 60031
(847) 782-8602 EMAIL: com574@clc.cc.il.us

KEN WILLICK, NIA #3709, **EASTERN REGION VP**
7349 SENECA AVE, LIMA, NY 14485-9712
(716) 624-3007

BOB STAHR, NIA #4186, **CENTRAL REGION VP**
11728 LEONARDO DRIVE, SAINT JOHN, IN 46373
(219) 365-4171
EMAIL: stahrrb@xpc.calumet.purdue.edu

MATT POAGE, NIA #3757, **WESTERN REGION VP**
12771 EUDORA DR., THORNTON, CO 80241
(303) 453-1895 EMAIL: wfgpoage@aol.com

MIKE GUTHRIE, NIA #3297, **TREASURER**
1209 W. MENLO, FRESNO, CA 93711-1477
(209) 435-6127 EMAIL: mgg17@cvip.fresno.com

TOM KATONAK, NIA #3567, **INFORMATION DIR**
1024 CAMINO de LUCIA, CORRALES, NM 87048
(505) 898-5592 EMAIL: tomk164440@aol.com

JOE BERES, NIA #563, **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR**
1315 OLD MILL PATH, BROADVIEW HTS, OH 44147
(440) 526-3478 EMAIL: jjjb@aol.com

RICK BALDWIN, NIA #336, **FIRST PAST PRESIDENT**
1931 THORPE CIRCLE, BRUNSWICK, OH 44212
(330) 225-3576

STEPHEN BOBB, NIA #827, **SECOND PAST PRESIDENT**
610 NORTHAMPTON RD, NORRISTOWN, PA 19403
(610) 539-6533

COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

CAROLYN BERRY, NIA #4336, **PROD. MARKETING**
1010 WREN COURT, ROUND ROCK, TX 78681
(512) 255-2006 EMAIL: babbsii@aol.com

PATTI NORTON, NIA #5151, **SHOW STANDARDS**
234 N. 5TH STREET, PORT HUENEME, CA 93041
(805) 488-7445 EMAIL: rrtpp@ix.netcom.com

DUDLEY ELLIS, NIA #5085, **NOMINATIONS**
131 PLANTATION WAY, STOCKBRIDGE, GA 30281
(770) 957-9928 EMAIL: pony102@aol.com

ELTON GISH, NIA #41, **ETHICS**
PO BOX 1317, BUNA, TX 77612
(409) 994-5662 EMAIL: gishen@sat.net

BOB WILLIS, NIA #6158, **HISTORIAN**
1047 MARINER COURT, STONE MOUNTAIN, GA
30083-2671
(404) 296-1988 EMAIL: hemiblue42@aol.com

STEVE MARKS, NIA #4951, **BY-LAWS**
21639 NORTH 74TH WAY, SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85255
(602) 473-7014 EMAIL: smmarks@omlaw.com

JOHN McDOUGALD, NIA #689, **RESEARCH & AUTHENTICATION**
5N941 RAVINE DR., ST. CHARLES, IL 60175
(630) 513-1544 EMAIL: cpamcd@aol.com

BOB BERRY, NIA #1203, **PROMOTION & EDUCATION**
1010 WREN COURT, ROUND ROCK, TX 78681
(512) 255-2006 EMAIL: pyrex553@aol.com



PRODUCT FORM HERE