

# Drip Points



**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION** 

http://www.nia.org

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## Available via e-mail!

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#### A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



As this Drip Points follows the 40th National Convention, there is a lot to report. Executive Secretary Colin Jung has provided the General Membership Meeting Minutes on pages 7 and 8.

The Central Region has a new Vice President. Bill Snell replaces outgoing VP Ross Baird.

Rick Jones, the new Philanthropy Chair, shares his thoughts on how organizations, such as the NIA, change and grow. See page 11 for details.

Jim White, the Promotions Chair, touches on quite a number of topics. Check out his article starting on page 14.

Next year's national has been announced for July 16-18, 2010. Mark your calendars!

**Arthur McConnachie**, NIA #6934 **Information Director** 

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT



The 2009 NIA National in Coralville, IA has come and gone so fast. I want to personally thank the show hosts for such a great show and first class facility. Stacey and I had a great time.

I am also happy to report that at the General Membership meeting on July 10, the membership voted to accept the new Articles of Incorporation and By-laws. As a result, we have submitted these documents to the IRS and are now waiting for their approval of our organization for 501c3 charitable organization status.

Making the assumption that we

will be approved, I have eliminated two committee chair positions and created a new one. The Nominations Chair (which has been vacant for the last year) and the By-Laws Chair positions are no longer necessary and have been eliminated. Rick Jones, who was By-Laws Chair, will now be occupying a new chair position as our Philanthropic Chair.

Rick has been working for 501c3 organizations for the last 30 years in this capacity and he has graciously accepted my offer to fill this roll in our organization. This chair will be responsible for acquiring funds as well as making appropriate donations as overseen by the NIA Board of Directors. Rick will be developing several procedures, policies and forms in this regard so as to best protect the NIA's interest. Rick may solicit some committee members as assistants to him so that he has volunteers in the various corners of the country.

Although Rick does not have the formal procedures in place, and

cannot issue receipts for donations until our 501c3 application is approved, if any of you should be interested in making a donation, please don't hesitate to contact him.

I am also happy to report that the NIA announced the location of the 2010 NIA National at the show. The show is being hosted by Dario Dimare and Bill & Jill Meier in Boxborough, Massachusetts. Boxborough is a suburb of Boston and promises to be a great show by location alone. The last National in New England was 1995.

I hope to be able to make some Fall events, even though Stacey and I are expecting a newborn in late September/early October. Time will tell and be dictated by how sleep deprived I will be.

Bob Stahr, NIA #4186 President

#### 1st PAST PRESIDENT



Hello again everyone. It's only been about 5 weeks since I returned from the National and the experience is still quite fresh in my mind. It was another great one and number 40 to boot. I decided to drive again this year and take some time to enjoy the ride along the way.

I actually took off on the road trip a full week early and stopped by Hannibal, Missouri, and Quincy, Illinois, where I grew up. I didn't really stop along the way looking for insulators as I had many thousands of dollars worth of other people's glass I was hauling to the National for those who had to fly there. It would be a real problem to have everything confiscated because I was in the wrong place on some right of way. I did take time to see some of the road less traveled and stayed off the Inter-

states as much as possible.

I also got a chance to spend the 4th of July with my sisters and their families as well as my dad and step-dad. It was a good time as Missouri still allows private fireworks and down-state Illinois tolerates them to a degree. Hear in Arizona, you may end up in Sheriff Joe's Tent City in July at 110 degrees for that kind of activity.

I hope you were able to make it to the National as well and if so, then you already know what a great job the Weber's, the McConnell's, and the Whitlock's did hosting the show. My hats off to all of these folks and their hard work. At the general membership meeting Friday evening, we did have some important business regarding the NIA and a project that I started while still president nearly two years ago. That is for the NIA to achieve 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt status.

Many people confuse this with non-profit status which we already have. Tax Exempt status would allow tax deductable donations to the NIA to help fund our activities. I belong to a tax exempt Amateur Radio club with 175 members and they have a larger budget than the NIA with its nearly 1600 members. This prompted the idea that perhaps the NIA could benefit from this as well. A tax attorney was retained on a donation from an

NIA member and the process began. Unfortunately, the NIA bylaws had to have several minor changes in order for them to pass with the IRS. The changes were less about how we do business now, and more about defining what we do and what we don't do and using the magic words the IRS likes to see. The changes to the by-laws required a membership vote to accept them. We took this vote at the general membership meeting and the changes were overwhelmingly approved.

The paperwork is all submitted with the tax attorney's office and to the IRS. It is time to cross our fingers and wait now. We will of course let you all know the outcome of this effort as soon as we

know

Well, I hope everyone is having a great summer. Cheryl and I are sizzling through it here in Arizona with one of the hottest summers on record. Not for the highest temperature, but for the longest number of days above average. It is our time when we stay in and keep out of the weather like many other folks do in January and February.

I wish you all well and keep your fingers crossed that the IRS finds us worthy of 501(c)(3) status.

Good collecting,

Kevin W. Jacobson, NIA #6720 First Past President

#### 2nd PAST PRESIDENT



What is camaraderie? Webster says it is a spirit of friendly good-fellowship. On the Internet, Wiktionary defines it as a close friendship in a group of friends or teammates and additionally, a spirit of familiarity and closeness. I guess we all could come up with our own definition of what camaraderie means to us.

On my flight back to Georgia from the National, I had some time to reflect on my experiences during my time at the annual event. Most everything that I did during my three days stay in Coralville, Iowa centered around old and new found friendships.

After I settled in at the hotel I met the show hosts in the lobby. We spent time sharing old times and our common experiences of hosting a National. In the evening I attended the hosts sponsored hospitality room. There I met friends I had not seen in two years due to my illness last year. We were able to catch up on each other's personal lives and families and not just talk insulators.

Sandy was unable to make the trip with me this year so I shared a room with Jackie Shaver, a long-time friend. I thought I knew a lot about Jackie but as we shared time together I found that what I knew was just the tip of the iceberg. Sharing the room, eating meals together and sharing other aspects of the show allowed us to strengthen our existing friendship.

In the Board meeting I met new

members and made new friends. Your Board works as a fine tuned machine. The Board is able to accomplish NIA business through friendships, teamwork, mutual respect and a common goal of improving our hobby.

During the first morning in the show hall I found myself spending time talking with dealers and other collectors to catch up on their personal lives and family. That is what friends do, they share with each other. I also greeted fellow Dixie Jewels Insulator Club members and we shared our wish list and helped each other find that special piece for our respective collection. Additionally, I made new friends with several collectors that came up to me to share their Canadian ponies and ask me questions. These were the beginnings of new lasting friendships because we shared something in common.

I talked at length with two of the many exhibitors about their col-

lecting specialties while we stood in front of their displays. I was able to strengthened my friendship with these collectors and further my insulator knowledge.

By midday I seriously thought that I would be traveling back home without that special piece for my Canadian pony collection. Thanks to a long time friendship with another collector and his knowledge of what I collect, I managed to fill a spot in my pony collection. He had saved a nice pony for me. A Canadian pony with a lot of junk

and swirls traveled back to Georgia with me.

What does camaraderie mean to me? It means a mutual respect between collectors, where sharing about oneself and insulator knowledge builds trusting friendships and relationships.

You can't build lasting friendships and relationships by sitting at home and buying from eBay and other hobby auctions. Friendship and relationship building is a major part of our hobby and should be an enjoyable part of attending swaps and shows. If you are not attending shows you are missing out on a very special part of our hobby.

Please remember to take a child to the next swap, local show, insulator hunt or hobby related museum. Children of today are the future of our great hobby.

See y'all at a show somewhere!!

**Dudley Ellis**, NIA #5085 **2nd Past President** 

#### **EASTERN REGION VP**



Well, it's hard to believe another National has come and gone. The Coralville Iowa National, as expected, brought out some outstanding pieces for sale that I noticed. Among some of the insulators that changed hands were, a CD 134 dark peacock blue 1871 patent with sharp drip points, a mustard olive CD 126 CREB, a CD 124.1 in light purple, and a CD 123.2 Chester in mint condition, that quickly change hands. A bright olive amber R. Good toll found its way back home to Colo-

rado. Other great pieces offered included a jade peacock CD 162, a mint crown patent, and a vivid mustard yellow Brookfield 126 Blobtop. Also offered were a teapot, Bostons, and some sweat colored signals, etc.

There were many "outstanding display's" at the show. Among the displays that burned an image in my mind were the combined insulators in wood display, the CD 731 threadless display, the milky Denvers - in a fish tank, the display of threadless and threaded pieces that were found by the exhibitor, the kegs, the Chance Co. And where else would you see 21 peacock blue Mickeys in one exhibit, but in the Plains states?

As usual the annual NIA Meeting went well. Nice to know some of you read your Drip Points, so we had a good Q&A session on our newest 501c3 venture for non-profit status enabling the NIA to accept donations to help in our

goals, such as educating our collectors, museum, etc.

I would also like to give a big thank you to Larry & Pat Witlock, Dennis & Jenee Weber, and Bill & Linda Connell for a job well done! If you haven't been to a national show, do yourself and your family a favor. They would love to see the country with you and the insulators. "We're waiting to see you."

Once again I'd like to remind you to check out construction sights in and around old towns and cities. You never know what they will dig up. Or stop by that antique store you pass by from time to time, call a friend or nearby collector to share/split expenses hunting, or go to a show and have some fun! Join a local club! See you in Ohio!

Doug (Dug) Williams, NIA #1221 Eastern Region VP

Do you know where Boxborough, Massachusetts, is?

#### WESTERN REGION VP



I am sure there will be other reports regarding the content of the Board and general membership meetings held at this years National. The adoption of the new By-laws and the new handbook of rules and procedures that will govern the NIA encourage me.

I think the membership owes a great deal of gratitude to Kevin Jacobson for his effort and work to procure a 501(c)3 tax status for the Association.

A wonderful thing happened at the Golden State Insulator Club show in Cayucos, CA. As many of us know, Richard Dawson is downsizing his collection. At the show he graciously presented Halie Montgomery (granddaughter of Dale Morris out Coalinga, CA, way) one of museum display his and insulators. poles What a great way to welcome a young person into the hobby. Needless to say, she was thrilled!

Forty-six DAYS and 7771 MILES! That's what it took to get from Fresno, CA, to the 2009

National in Coralville, Iowa and home again. The journey started June 3 in order to participate in Tommy Bolack's second tailgater in Farmington, New Mexico. I left Fresno with a van full of watt-hour meters, voltage and amp meters and other electrical stuff to be left with Tommy. Mission accomplished! Tommy's museums are something to behold. I recommend that you plan a trip to his tailgater that, I hear, is going to become an annual event.

Tom and Lynda Katonak invited me to continue my journey with a visit to Albuquerque. NM. While there, Tom assisted in the acquisition of a metal pole bracket I've had my eye on for three years. Truly, Tom and Lynda are great hosts!

It took quite a few days to make my way to Denver, CO. There were stops in Santa Fe and Taos, NM. A day was spent at the pueblos near Taos. I met a nice old man in a coffee shop in San Luis, CO, who insisted that he be my personal quide of the town. From (Photo next page.)

A stop was made in Canon City, CO, to visit with Robert Gilkerson. Impressive was the fantastic motorcycle rebuild project he has going on in his garage. Next stop, Colorado Springs and a trip to the top of Pike's Peak via the cog railway. I checked out the telegraph line that ran to the top. Actually, there were only pole butts and wire along the way that could be seen from the railway car.

On to Denver! I enjoyed spending a Saturday with Mike Miller. He is quite the "Denver Glass collector and historian. I could spend days listening to his stories and adventures.

I couldn't imagine that he would dismantle, pack-up, transport and set up his awesome water-filled fish tank insulator display at the Coralville National. I owe him a big "Thank You" for hauling an



that adventure the journey took me to Walsenburg, CO. I had to stop and check out the old abandoned power generation plant. iron pipe telegraph pole top to the National. Also, a "Thank You" to Dan Gauron for arranging the transfer of the pole to Mike.

An additional day was spent in the Denver Public Library doing research about the Transcontinental Telegraph line. The library is a repository of many early pictures, sketches and newspaper articles about the telegraph line.

I will share the Kansas, Missouri and Iowa chapter of this travel odyssey in the next issue.

Lou Hall, NIA #7185 Western Region VP



#### **CENTRAL REGION VP**



I'm fortunate that I get to begin my first Drip Points report by praising the recent National in Coralville, Iowa. What a great show! Deepest thanks to the show hosts, Bill and Linda Connell, Dennis and

Jeanne Weber, and Larry and Pat Whitlock, for a well-run and successful show. You put an enormous amount of effort into the National, and it showed! Thanks to all those Missouri Valley Insulator Club volunteers who cheerfully helped out in so many ways - welcome table, security, raffle ticket sales, and the hospitality room. Thanks to Ray Klingensmith for providing a fascinating slide show and lecture on his vast digging experience, and to all those exhibitors, dealers and attendees, without whom there would be no reason to have a show! I certainly enjoyed myself in Coralville. I learned a lot, made lots of new friends, and I was able to bring home a few new treasures.

The Central Region remains active with other shows and swap

meets coming up soon: The Northwest Region Insulator Club swap in Nisswa, MN; the Lone Star Insulator Club show in Houston, TX; The Greater Chicago Insulator Club swap in Racine, WI; the Huron Valley Bottle & Insulator Club show in Chelsea, MI, and of course, the famous Mid-Ohio show in Springfield, OH. I hope everyone is able to get away for a day or two and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow collectors.

As the new Central Region VP, I'm available to listen to any concerns or comments you might have. Feel free to contact me and share your thoughts.

Bill Snell, NIA # 2624 Central Region VP

2009 National Show Report http://www.nia.org/nathist/2009.htm

#### 2009 NIA General Membership Meeting Minutes July 10, 2009 - Coralville, Iowa, USA

NIA President Bob Stahr called the meeting to order at 4:23 p.m. A visual count indicated there were 82 people in the audience. He introduced the board members in attendance. He said the major issue the board was working on this past year was re-incorporating the NIA as a charitable 501(c)(3) organization. Attorneys were hired to re-draft the by-laws to qualify the NIA as a charitable organization.

Colin Jung, Executive Secretary, asked for the approval of the 2008 general membership meeting minutes. There was a motion, second and unanimous approval on the minutes. Colin reported that the annual corporation filing was completed with the State of Arizona. He then announced that the 2010 National will be held in the Eastern Region in Boxborough, Massachusetts on June 16-18, 2010. Your hosts are Bill & Jill Meier and Dario Dimare. Bill described where Boxborough is located and some of the attractions of the region. A bus trip to Boston will be offered as part of the National. Dario invited everyone to attend. The hosts welcomed everyone to email them with any questions about places to visit.

Treasurer Jack Roach reported on a memorial benefit for Galen Howard. Galen's wife asked that donations in memory of Galen be used toward the production of a plaque. \$275 was donated and the plaque of etched glass cost \$150. Jack reported that financially the NIA had a good year. Income was \$16,066 and expenses were \$13,676. The bank balance is \$19,358. The 2009-2010 fiscal year has a projected income of \$14,400 and projected expenses of \$14,380.

Bob Berry reported on the activities of the Research and Education Committee. www.nia.org internet traffic was up some and of like websites, was second only to www.insulators.info . The North American threaded glass CD photo gallery was finished. Bob would like to expand this portion of the website by adding photos of other CD's, like battery rests, to the gallery. Bob encouraged everyone to take Drip Points electronically. He also invited NIA members to submit content for the NIA website.

Carolyn Berry reported on the Product Marketing Committee. We had record setting revenue of \$4,000 at the Portland National, despite a smaller inventory. The net profit at the National was \$1,572. Carolyn introduced the new products for the coming year: a women's shirt, and a carrying bag for groceries and other errands.

Bob Stahr, reported for Kay Bryant, Nominations Chair, who was not present. Central Region Vice-President Ross Baird will term out and be replaced by Bill Snell. A general membership vote was not taken because no one ran against Bill, and he was appointed to the position by acclamation of board members.

Gene Hawkins presented a report for the Awards and Recognition Committee. A major overhaul of the display judging was completed by the last Chair and will be applied to this National's display judging. Some tweaking of the rules may still be needed, but Gene is still evaluating the judging. It is a work in progress.

Bob Stahr reported for Rick Jones, By-laws Chair, who was not present. Two changes were approved to the operations manual. The Awards and Recognition section was corrected to prohibit current board members and committee chairs from being nominated for NIA Outstanding Service and Lifetime Membership awards. A change was also made to the Awards section. The Board recommends that awards be presented at the end of judging, but now it will be done at the discretion of show hosts in coordination with the NIA Board.

Rick Soller, NIA Historian, is seeking to get more of the personal histories of collectors into the archives. He also wanted to report on the probability that the Armstrong pedestal salesman samples were being reproduced from the original mold. A fuller account was printed in the last issue of Drip Points.

Bob reported that Paul Greaves, Authentication and Classification Chair, was absent. No report was given. Jim White, Promotions Chair, was also absent. Bob mentioned that Jim just finished a manual to help hosts promote their shows. David Wiecek, Ethics Chair, was also absent. Bob reported that four ethics cases were resolved this past year.

Don Briel, Membership Chair, reported that there were 1,634 active members, including 50 new/renewals so far. He encouraged members to update their email address, so they can continue to receive their Drip Points electronically.

Dudley Ellis, Second Past President, said he was glad to be in Coralville. He missed the Portland National due to illness.

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Lou Hall, Western Regional Vice President, reported that the hobby was doing well in the West with lots of shows available to the hobbyist. Nor-Cal Insulator Club and the Central and Southern Counties Insulator Club had merged last year to form the Golden State Insulator Club.

Bob Stahr reporting for Ross Baird, Central Region Vice President, said things were strong in the Central Region and thanked the hosts for a great National.

Doug Williams, Eastern Region Vice President, mentioned that he was glad to have an Eastern National in 2010 and thanked its hosts. Doug stated his preference that members contact him by telephone, rather than, by email. Doug reported on a possible lawsuit against the Central Florida Insulator Club. Jacqueline Linscott Barnes was in the audience and corrected that report. She stated that the Florida insulator club was not sued. The lawsuit was against the local bottle club and the fairgrounds.

Kevin Jacobson, First Past President, discuss with the audience the benefits of a charitable 501(c)(3) designation for the NIA. The organization will be able to more effectively solicit donations because the donors will get tax deductions. Eventually the NIA will have more funds to do things, like finance authentication of insulators, or even host a National if a bid is not received. He introduced Rick Jones as the NIA's potential Donations Chair. Rick has over 30 years of experience working with 501(c)(3) organizations. Rick briefly described his work and mentioned that in the state he works in, the merits of 501(c)(3) boards voting on the by-laws, not the membership. In his experience, it was a much more efficient means of governance.

Bob Stahr asked for a motion to approve the revised articles of incorporation and the revised by-laws as noticed in the last issue of Drip Points. Rick Soller moved to approve and was seconded. NIA member Andrew Gibson called for a discussion of the proposed by-law revision that would make any future by-law changes subject to the approval of the board and not the membership. Mr. Gibson was concerned about the loss of checks and balances between the membership and the board, and the possibility of the board increasing its powers against the wishes of the membership.

Individual board members pointed out that there has not been a by-laws change since the NIA applied for non-profit status a decade ago. Charitable 501(c)(3) status will make it even more difficult for the board to change the by-laws since any change must be reviewed by the Internal Revenue Service. Most of the membership is more concerned with the convention rules, display judging and ethical issues involving buying and selling insulators. These policies and rules are not part of the by-laws, but part of the operations manual and are not even voted on by the membership. With the change in the by-laws the number of elected positions, that is, positions voted on by the membership, jumps from six to ten. It was noted that there has not been a membership vote on a new president for a long, long time. It was pointed out that it was not a problem with the by-laws, but the lack of interest in the general membership to field more than one candidate for the position.

The revised articles of incorporation and revised by-laws were approved on a 51-5 vote by eligible NIA members and demonstrated by a raising of hands. Meeting attendees were asked to sign in and the Membership Chair verified all memberships prior to any voting. After the vote, one member in the audience asked publicly how many members printed out the revised by-laws from the website. Thirty persons raised their hands.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colin Jung, NIA #7055 Executive Secretary



#### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



Jeanne and I turned our trip to the Coralville NIA National show into our summer vacation. We had a great time on our trip to the show, at the show, and our touring of Church history sites throughout lowa, Illinois, and Missouri after the show. It was two weeks of pure pleasure.

Many thanks go to Pat & Larry Whitlock, Dennis & Jeanne Weber, Bill & Linda Connell and all the others that helped to make the Coralville show a huge success. Once again, I added a few nice insulators to my collection, but the best part was visiting with old friends and making new ones. Jeanne and I are now looking forward to the Boxborough show next year.

While our trip to and from the National was very enjoyable, we did have one experience that we'll

remember for some time. As we were heading home and traveling through western Kansas we encountered a hail storm. After stopping on the side of the road to allow it to pass, we watched our car get severely damaged from golf ball sized hail. We were expecting it to come through the windshield, but we were blessed with safety and able to drive the car the rest of the way home.

Our insurance company did total the car and we spent a few days looking for a replacement. All went well and I wouldn't hesitate to make the same trip again.

Progress on the new insulator room has slowed due to traveling to shows and other summer chores, but it is still progressing. The track for the moveable backlit shelves is built and in place, the shelf carriages are built, and the shelves are underway. I'll attempt some more pictures next time.

Last year was a record year for NIA membership with 1719 members in good standing. As of this writing we have 1652 members in good standing which makes this our second best year. A few renewals continue to come in and we are still seeing new member applications arrive.

As a reminder, October 1st is when membership renewals are credited to 2010 (or later if you are already paid through 2010), unless you request otherwise. The 1st of October is also when reminder notices go out for 2010 membership dues.

Paying your dues in advance of October 1st saves the NIA the cost of printing and mailing your reminder and helps keep your dues down. Please consider paying your 2010 dues prior to mid September. You may also pay multiple years if that is more convenient.

Thanks for your continued support of the NIA and the insulator collecting hobby!

**Donald Briel**, NIA #7218 **Membership Director** 







#### From the Treasurer

Jack Roach, NIA #4156, Treasurer

#### NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION 2008-2009 FINANCIAL STATEMENT TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2009

Beginning Balance – General Funds Museum Exploratory Committee Authentication/Ethics Account		\$13,574 972 2,297
Revenues		
Donations		
Membership Dues	\$11,219	
Miscellaneous Income	550	
Product Sales	4,022	
Galen Howard Donations	275	
Total Revenues		16,066
General Fund Expenses		
Advertising	479	
Taxes and Fees and Insurance	930	
Marketing Product	3,394	
Postage	1,662	
Printing	498	
Supplies	450	
Educational Expense	395	
Crown Jewels Rebate	460	
Drip Points	4,480	
Show Advertising Rebate	728	
National Show Awards	500	
Galen Howard Memorial	150	
Special Projects		
Total Expenses		13,676
Closing Balance – General Fund	\$15,964	
Museum Exploratory C	972	
Authentication/Ethics A	2,297	
Galen Howard Fund		125
Total Balance on Hand June 30, 2009	\$19,358	

#### PHILANTHROPY CHAIR



#### **Organizational Growth**

An organization typically begins its life in a grassroots effort led by a group of people who want to make some sort of difference. As I write this, there's a group of people somewhere sitting around someone's kitchen table discussing a problem and desiring to fix it. That discussion will pick up momentum and grow - not by organizing a convention - but by networking the plan, marketing the plan, adding members to the cause, and nurturing this process quietly for a year and usually much longer. Eventually, some association or organization emerges from this process.

For the most part, the USA emerged from the same type of process just as most every NPO has. The NIA is no exception. As the association or organization grows, people talk about the good 'ol days when the organizers enjoyed inside information and had an in on access, acquiring objects that were the subject of the birth of the organization, had a part in creating the organization - whatever.

Those early days of development - which many groups will try and make last as long as possible, sometimes to the detriment of the organization's growth - were the really fun days that people like to remember. 'Whatever happened to the good 'ol days?'

Change happens. Organizations that survive must change. They soon grow to the point that they want to acquire certain advantages, so these grassroots efforts file the paper work to become fullfledged NPOs. This usually happens in the first year. Sometime later, organizations begin to see the advantage of accepting donations, but need a carrot to help draw and grow those donations. So, they file for tax exemption status - usually the federal classification of 501(c)(3). This is the status that allows tax deductions for donors to that organization. It also allows that group to now apply for grants and have an opportunity to acquire sponsors for events. All of this can fuel growth and sometimes quickly.

My point of all of this is that when an organization opts to become a 501(c)(3) as the NIA has, members should find this largely comforting. Not because it will break up or prevent cliques - as long as there are groups, there will be the Ups and Downs. But because with this classification comes a whole new set of rules requiring transparent accountability, more formal accounting procedures, the submission of an IRS Form 990 that is newer and tougher each year, and other rules to now guide the legal and accounting activities of the organization. In fact, each board member will now be reguired to annually sign a Conflict of Interest declaration letting future auditors know that they have had no financial gain from having influence on the board.

This does not mean that members of the organization are any more exposed or will have any additional burdens. In fact, nothing changes for them but the opportunity to contribute with the additional advantage that it will now come right off your taxes as a donation. More burden on the board of the NIA, nothing but advantage to the members.

My point of all of this is that when an organization opts to become a 501(c)3 as the NIA has, members should find this largely comforting.

This should also be comforting to anyone considering running for a board seat. The NIA will now be an organization with several new safety mechanisms for the board to hold oversight on and ensure that everything is above board so to speak. Will the board still have access to some information regarding the hobby that general members of the organization will not? Of course. There will always be some advantage like this to serving on any board. It just gets tricky when that information can lead to financial advantage and the board will need to monitor such activity among board members closely.

A lot of this type of touchy area can be controlled through board policy. If a board member realizes that the board should only speak with one voice and not as individuals when it comes to decision-making for the organization, mistakes can be avoided. It can be understood by thinking of hats. In the boardroom, board members wear their board hats and as a

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group make board decisions for the organization. Of course, as long as they remain group decisions, these hats can be put on anytime during the year and an email or conference call can bring the board together for a decision. The key is that no decision affecting the organization should be made by an individual board member even if they are an officer of the board. This sustains board unity and wholeness.

In fact, an all volunteer organization like the NIA can spend the first half of a board meeting wearing their administrative hats and attending to the litany of management-type decisions, then the second half they can switch to their board hats and deal with policy, mission, vision, and the future direction of the organization.

Rick Jones, NIA #201 Philanthropy

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION CHAIR



If you didn't get to Coralville, you missed some excellent displays. Both Competitive and Non-Competitive displays were there, and several were very educational. Take a look at the pictures posted on ICON, but even if you click "see original" it is nothing like seeing them in person.

It is not too early to think about

making a display for next year's National.

If you look at the displays, there were some that were just insulators sitting on a table. Others had some information in a poster, and others had printed handouts so viewers could take some of the information with them.

The NIA encourages displays to include features to inspire & educate others. The NIA set up a structured judging method to encourage research & the educational value of displays & give pretty nice awards in several categories. The judging criteria is posted on the NIA website at: http://www.nia.org/handbook/judging.htm so you can see what the judges will be looking for while scoring the displays. There is nothing secret about how the plagues are awarded in your NIA.

Of course, you have the freedom to do your own thing, but in the end, the scoring system is what wins the NIA awards. Individual clubs have their own independent system of scoring for choosing which display wins club awards.

One hint, whenever you do your research, especially on-line, it would be good to give credit to those who were kind enough to share their information and pictures by giving them credit with a reference.

Displays are a great way for you to invest something back into the hobby. Good displays genuinely inspire others, perhaps people new to our wonderful hobby. Maybe you will meet fellow collectors who also share your specialty, creating a lifelong friendship.

Please consider displaying your collection! WE WANT TO SEE IT!

Gene Hawkins, NIA #421 Awards & Recognition

Mark your calendar ...

The National Insulator Association's 41st Annual Show & Convention Boxborough, MA July 16-18th, 2010

#### **HISTORIAN CHAIR**



## Treasure Magazine Stories About Insulators

Many collectors consider searching for insulators along lines a kind of treasure hunt, so it should be no surprise that many treasure hunting magazines published an article on insulators at one time. Just searching for these articles is quite a hunt by itself, but with mixed rewards.

The first problem in finding articles on insulators in treasure hunting (TH'ing) magazines is that these articles are not indexed in references such as the Readers Guide to Periodical Index. The magazines are not found at bookstores like Borders or Barnes & Noble and, even if they were, they would only contain an article on insulators every few years resulting in monthly frustration. Kevin Lawless was passionate about compiling a listing of all hobby insulator books. publications, and articles, but in his 1994 list, included only one magazine (Relics) that was close to being a treasure hunting magazine. I have since added to this list with the help of eBay sellers who mention an article on insulators in TH'ing magazines they list. Once I was aware of these articles. I've spent hours in cramped, smelly antique stores and at flea markets paging through stacks of magazines to find a few more.

The discoveries are a mixed reward. There is a lot of hyperbole in the articles; much more than in insulator publications or in newspaper reports. There are also a number of inaccuracies in the articles. Since these articles were generally published in the early years of the hobby, perhaps these errors can be overlooked or at least they may no longer matter. Below are a few of the whoppers.

In the earliest articles, insulators were priced between \$1 and \$100. In later articles, a thousand dollars was considered the top price. These prices are accurate for the time. A couple prices made me chuckle. According to an article in Western Treasures, "none are worth less than a dollar.... ("The Latest Fad 1969, 27). A later article lists a price of "...\$90 for the extremely rare ruby-red glass insulator" (Watson 1985, 44).

There were also a couple surprising colors mentioned. Besides the reference by Watson to a red insulator. Schember also refers to red although calling it "less commonly seen" much like purple, blue, and milk glass (1990, 63). For two insulators described in one article, it was interesting to read the colors listed for these insulators. "For positive identification, look for the words Hemingray - 60 embossed on the shirt [sic] of a 'Mickey Mouse' insulator. Another insulator that looks similar is the Oakman-Mfg. Insulator which is dated August 19, 1890. This insulator is only known in green, while the Hemingray are usually purple or clear in color" (Taylor 1975, 15).

The articles list a number of companies that made insulators. Some of these names contained typographical errors (e.g., Malaughlin, H.C. Co., Whitehall

Tatum, Hemmingray) but one article listed Westcoast as an insulator company (Taylor 1975, 16) and I have little idea of what the author meant.

Some information found in different articles was contradictory. Gerald T. Ahnert states that "bottle dumps are also a good source of insulators" (1981, 48). In an earlier article, the author writes that "bottle hunters with experience going back 15 years report that insulators are rare occurrence in any bottle dump" ("The Latest Fad" 1969, 26).

Some information was just downright wrong. According to Schember, "up until the mid-1860s, insulators were theadless and often made of ceramics" (1990, 63). In Bill Schember's article, he reported finding a threadless insulator and that he checked it out later at the library and "found out that it was a threadless insulator, probably made in the 1860s" (1990, 63). The description and picture included in the article, however, clearly identified it as a porcelain guy strain from about the 1940s. A Western Treasures article stated that one of the major problems facing collectors "is the amount of burglaries that have occurred as criminals learn the value of insulators" ("Insulators a Sky High Hobby" 1975, 17) Frank Taylor claimed that "because they are glass, insulators are frequently chipped or damaged in some way, so it is very difficult to find perfect specimens..." (1971, 9).

These articles are not without merit, however. The article by T.W. Paterson provides a nice profile of Colin McIntosh and Canadian insulator history. The 1971 article by Ahnert describes insulators he found on the Richardson Highway in Alaska north and

south of the Paxton Lodge and that he only took a few of the insulators along the line. The articles all seemed to get the basic history of insulators and the hobby correct. A good number of pictures were included but few additional resources provided (Tropico Mine at Roseamond, California and Hill & Picket's An Insulator Book for Collectors). It would be nice if some collector(s) in the hobby could update TH'ers on the hobby today.

Rick Soller, NIA #2958 Historian

#### References

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#### **PROMOTIONS CHAIR**



#### **National Convention**

I am confident that this issue will be filled with compliments and commentary regarding the recently concluded Coralville Iowa National Convention. In keeping with this thread, my first comment is to reinforce kudos to the show hosts. Until you tackle a project of this magnitude, it is hard to imagine the planning, detail and worry that is involved. This was my third National and I have to confess

that it was a joy from many perspectives: purchasing some new glass, seeing some new geography, getting away from the office and doing something I love, putting faces with names I have dealt with or communicated with over the past years, making new acquaintances, and generally relaxing with friends. I also have to admit to enjoying the late night gab sessions over a beer with a group of collectors.

#### **Insulator Promotions**

As NIA Promotions Chairman, I believe that anything done to increase the exposure of the public to "the hobby" is, as Martha Stewart says, "A Good Thing"! To that end, this year I have assisted the show hosts of the Wheaton Show, Columbia City Show and the National Convention in authoring a Crown Jewels summary article on each show. I hope those articles left a taste of what collectors missed by not being able to attend. Without meaning to sound egotistical, I also took literally hundreds of photos and received

many compliments from readers of Crown Jewels and ICON. I know I always enjoy photos much more than the long columns of copy. It is nice to know that the photos are appreciated and someone takes the time to enjoy them! In addition, I recently authored an article on my CD 101 collection for Crown Jewels. I challenge every reader to look at what you know and what you have and consider an article and sharing your knowledge over the next months. Also consider bringing a friend to a show and let them experience the fun. We may add another to our ranks.

I encourage each of you reading this to look for ways to share your knowledge of the hobby and your love of collecting with the public. That can take a lot of forms from displaying at shows to placing an educational display at the local library. Show hosts, I hope will encourage increased educational materials in the displays at their shows and attempting to get media coverage of their show.

#### **Show Host Promotion Help**

As a reminder, I recently posted to ICON that we have available a recently drafted document which seeks to assist show hosts with additional ideas to help them on the promotional side of hosting a show. This is available upon request (Indyblanc@aol.com). As a result of that recent posting I had three show hosts ask for a copy. I am also looking for feedback and additional ideas to enhance the document.

#### **NIA Badges**

In speaking with Carolyn Berry recently, I discovered that she is producing "bars" which are "add ons' to our main NIA name badge. She indicated that she can produce a bar for the "2009 Convention" and also one for your respective club. I have ordered one for myself to denote the 2009 convention attendance. I was most impressed during the National Convention Banquet how many collectors had attended the various Nationals. We had one gentleman who attended the first insulator convention held in New Castle, Indiana. WOW! Possibly we can start a tradition of NIA members publicizing their Convention attendance on their badges? OH... bar are \$4.00 each plus \$.50 postage.

#### **CD 102 Combined Display**

As my wife reminds me, I can never seem to say NO. So I find myself coordinating a combined display of CD 102s for Springfield (Mid-Ohio) show this year. Two new backlit light cases are being produced and this will kick off an on-going combined display each year. For many of our collector friends who fly, it is literally physically difficult to display on any large scale but they could, and would, contribute to a larger display where several collectors bring their best gems in that theme. The theme this year will be CD 102 Ponies.

I will be photographing all the entries. These will be posted to an album set-up by Bill Meier on ICON. That way everyone can easily access the images.

All entries will be tagged with owner's name. Displayers will register their pieces at a registration table set up on the stage area of the show. Additionally, there will be two tables devoted to the two backlit display cases. The display cases will house approximately 280 pieces.

Please contact me for the details if interested in participating so I can understand how many pieces we will have coming.

Jim White:

Tel. 317-710-6135 Email: Indyblanc@aol.com

At 3:30 PM on Saturday we will have an informal discussion regarding CD 102s. All displayers, as well as dealers and general public, are encouraged to participate. This is not a seminar format but a chance for open discussion, questions and answers regarding the theme.

#### **Volunteers at Springfield**

If you would like to help with registration, check-in or check-out of display and/or security, let me know as I am looking for volunteers to serve for one-hour increments so it does not encroach on your having fun.

My email: Indyblanc@aol.com or 317-710-6135 (cell). Your help is appreciated.

Jim White, NIA #1127 Promotions

#### 2009 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Bob Stahr, NIA #4186 President 515 Main St., Unit 403 West Chicago, IL 60185 bob@hemingray.com

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

### VOLUME 37 \* NUMBER 1 \* FALL 2009

### Membership Application/Renewal Form

Dues Schedule:  Regular Membership Family Membership Junior Membership (under 18)	. \$ 12.00 . \$ 12.00 . \$ 5.00		Donald R. Bri NIA Members P. O. Box 188 Providence, U don.briel@con	ship Director T 84332
Check appropriate class: Regular	Family	Junior	Club/Org	
Check years of payment: Single year	Multi-ye	ear		
Please Print Legibly				
Name				
NIA # (if renewal)				
Address				
City				
State/Province				
Zip/Postal Code				
Country (if non U.S.)				
Telephone Number				
E-Mail Address				
Please include me in the Annual NIA/Cr	own Jewels Directo	ory	Yes	No
Please include my Telephone Number			Yes	No
Please include my E-Mail Address			Yes	No
I would like to receive Drip Points in the (Check only one choice) (An E-Mail ac		for electronic)	Paper	Electronic
Additional Fa	mily Members Re	siding in the Sa	me Household	
Name				NIA # (if renewal)
1				
2				
3				
4 5				
Signed				
Date		Amount Enc	2 besol	

Many thanks to the Whitlock's, Weber's & Connell's for hosting a terrific central National show for the hobby!



#### Show pre-sales & show sales topped \$2600 !

#### New item debuted and well received at the National....

## "BIG THUNDER" tote

Made of 100% recycled materials, reinforced 20" carrying handles and cardboard bottom insert, 13"w x 10" x 15h", embroidered with large NIA logo, hunter green, reusable and hand washable \$15.00

Are you attending an upcoming local swap or show?

Do you need a name BADGE?



An engraved NIA badge & club bar is a great resource to identify yourself as a NIA member / club member to others - \$13.00

All club bars are available for purchase.....

If you see someone wearing a sweatshirt, polo, t-shirt, cap or holding a mug you would like to have, just give me a call or send me an email....we will work out the details.

Our NIA website, <u>www.nia.org/product.htm</u>, depicts products currently being sold by NIA Product Marketing and a <u>printable order form!</u>

Fall is coming! Enjoy the local swaps/shows and the great community of collectors in this hobby!

Carolyn Berry Product Marketing Chairman -- NIA # 4336 Email:pyrex553@aol.com



## Fall 2009 www.nia.org/products



	Men's Golf / Polo Shirts or Button-front Sport Shirt	<u>Price</u>	Quantity	<u>Total</u>		
	Color Choice:					
	<u>Please call or email me for available colors!</u> All with embroidered logo:	some with	pockets			
	(Size chart on back) (*note: pockets, \$3.00 extra) \$38.00					
لے ہے۔	Ladies' Polo/Golf style shirts -					
LOGO Large Logo	Please call or email me for available colors! All with embroidered logo (no poc	kets)				
on back	\$38.00					
	( Size chart on back ) Color choice:					
	<u>Denim Shirt</u> – (*ladies order comparable men's size, see chart)					
	Nicely weighted denim, pre-shrunk cotton stonewash blue or natural; le	ft-side poc	ket			
$\swarrow$	Embroidered logo S M L XL \$35.00					
Norman 12-2	*S/Sleeve *L/Sleeve 2X 3X \$38.00					
	T-Shirts - Hanes Heavyweight - 6.1 oz .cotton - Pre-shrunk					
	Screen-printed logo (front & back) S _ M_ L_ XL _ (\$20	))				
	Colors: Stonewash Green, Stonewash Med. Blue, Pebble (sand), Lt. Steel					
	Embroidered logo (front only!) (**NOTE: I have a limited number of t-	shirts with p	ockets, call for o	letails)		
	S _ M_ L _ XL _ (\$20)					
	(*note: pockets, \$2.00 additional on all sizes) 2X_ (\$22)					
	<u>Colors:</u> Sand, Golden Yellow, Ecru, Ash Gray, White, Royal, Red, Burgu Stonewash Green	ndy, Lt. Bl	ue, Lt. Steel G	ray,		
	Crewneck Sweatshirts Heavy weight 100 % Cotton/polyester	olend – Pre-	shrunk			
NATIONAL 1	Colors: Burgundy, Lt. Steel Gray, Steel Gray Embroidered logo					
INSULA OR Association	M_ L_ XL _ (\$25) 2X _ 3X _ (\$30	))				
Haman	Hooded Sweatshirt w/ full front zipper/muff pocket/drawstring ho	od -embro	idered logo-			
	Color: Lt. Steel Gray M L XL (\$35) 2X 3X (\$40)					
	Embroidered Cap low-rise, embroidered logo (\$16.00)					
1	Circle color choice: Stone/Navy bill, Khaki/Green bill, or all Denim					
11	13 oz. Clear Glass Mug with etched NIA Logo \$2.00					
	Ceramic Mug - 10 oz. white mug with logo \$7.00					
		)				
	Koozie <sup>™</sup> The original beverage Koozie <sup>™</sup> fits any standard beer/so			 le !!		
NOTE:	Silver screened NIA logo on: NIA blue red green \$1.50					
All sizes,						
styles &						
colors of shirts are	NIA Name Badge engraved; beveled edges (fill in form on page 2)					
available by		0				
special	Badge Bar (ie. NIA position or Local Club) \$4.0	0				
order	NEW "Big Thunder" Tote bag - sturdy tote w/ NIA logo \$15.0	0				
	Dr.	Sul	ototal			
	U.S.		ee back)			
	2		closed			

#### Adult/Men's Size Chart:

**S** (32-34) **M** (36-38) **L** (40-42) **XL** (44-46) **2X** (48-50) **3X** (52-54)

ż

#### \*Ladies Size Chart:

S (28-30) M (32-34) L (36-38) XL (40-42)

\*Ladies order comparable adult/men's size for most shirts, unless specifically noted as a ladies shirt

\*\*<u>U.S. Postage</u>: \$6.00 for the first item & \$1.45 for each additional item ordered.

<u>Postage for Patches, Decals is \$0.45</u>. <u>Pins or Name Badges/Bars are \$0.85 per item.</u> \*\*for non-US postage, AK & HI, or, for an exact postage quote, please contact me.

Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to:

#### National Insulator Association or NIA

## **Order / Shipping Information**

	Name Address City/State/Zip					
	Telephone					
	Email address					
Name	e Badge Engraving Inf	formation (cu	rrent NIA me	mber) Circle bac	k style (pin	s are free)!!
Name _		NIA#	City		_State	Pin / Magnet
Name _		NIA#	City		_State	Pin / Magnet
Name _		NIA#	City		_State	Pin / Magnet
Name _		NIA#	City		State	Pin / Magnet
	Club Bar:			(qty needed)		
	Club Bar:			(qty needed)		
	Club Bar:			(qty needed)		
	Club Bar:			(qty needed)		

## Thanks for your support of the NIA!

Contact Information:

Carolyn Berry - 1010 Wren Court, Round Rock, TX 78681 / 512-255-2006 / pyrex553@aol.com