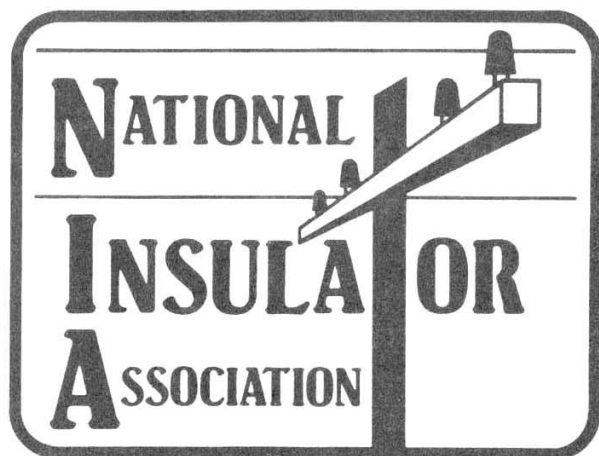


# DRIP POINTS



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION  
VOLUME 16 NUMBER 1 FALL 1988

GREETINGS! The summer has flown by and many new and exciting things have been happening in the hobby.

After you've checked the latest sales ads, made sure that your name made it into the directory OK, and found your "calling card" ... take some time to read the "*DRIP POINTS*". Inside you'll find:

- "MESSAGES" from Board members
- A list of award winners from the 1988 Houston National
- Minutes of the Business Meeting of the 19th Annual NIA Convention
- The 1987/8 NIA Financial Report

If you have items of special interest to NIA members ... News, Comments, Complaints, Encouragement ... send them in (to Don Reinke). "*DRIP POINTS*" is your NIA newsletter and forum ... use it!

## "MESSAGES"

### • FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow NIA Members (and future members!),

Since the last edition of Drip Points much has happened in the NIA including the conclusion of a very successful National Convention and the election and installation of new officers and a new board of directors.

As your newly elected NIA President I would first like to thank my predecessor, Kevin Lawless, for an outstanding two years of service to the NIA and the insulator collecting hobby. Everywhere you look, from our new logo to our financial statement, you will see evidence of Kevin's positive contributions. On behalf of the hobby, thanks Kevin!!!

I have a number of ideas which I would like to pursue to better the hobby and the contributions which the NIA makes. In future Drip Points I will outline these objectives for you.

Many with whom I have already spoken ask the question: "What does the NIA do and why should I get involved?" Others believe it is an elitist organization for the personal benefit of the Board of Directors and their friends. To the first question I suggest only that you read the show reports of the 19th NIA Convention, Show, and Sale to find out what the NIA does for the hobby. The selection, sanction, and financial support of the regional and national shows is one of the most important and most enjoyable contributions the NIA makes. Not convinced? Check out the last edition of Drip Points (June 1988 Crown Jewels insert) for the position paper on fake and altered insulators. The NIA plays THE major role hobbywide to try to maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct and business dealings by investigating and acting upon complaints about violations of the NIA Code of Ethics. Without such an organization and dedicated workers within, these areas would be pure chaos as was the case to some degree prior to the formation of the Association. Your involvement helps perpetuate these noble objectives.

Insofar as those who benefit...it is every collector in the hobby. Members of the Board of Directors serve without pay and with very little, if any, expense compensation from the treasury. Most members of the Board pay their own expenses out of pocket to leave the precious funds for other purposes. So, the NIA exists to serve the HOBBY, not any individual or group within it. I hope this helps explain some of the objectives the hobby has for the benefit of you, the collector.

In return for these and many other services we ask you for just a few things.... 1) Your membership support. The NIA is funded almost entirely by membership dues which are used to publish this newsletter, assist with the cost of advertising regional and national shows, provide ribbons and trophies for displayers at shows at all levels, to offset the costs associated with the annual membership directory, and to pay for the logistics necessary to accomplish all of the above. 2) We ask for your support in the form of helping hands and thoughtful minds in providing help with the day to day operation of the NIA and in offering input into how the NIA can better serve the hobby and collectors. As with many hobby organizations, both areas suffer frequently from the dread disease: "lackus of interestus" which has been known to be fatal to volunteer organizations! 3) We would also ask your support in the purchase of those items offered with the NIA logo such as patches, namebadges, decals, mugs, etc., etc. That's all we ask and look what you get in return !!!!!

If you would like to assist the hobby through the NIA write me so I can address your concerns and use your ideas ! I don't plan to spend the next two years sitting back and watching the hobby, I want to be a part of its growth and successes, won't you join me?! Until next time my best wishes toward a successful hobby experience.

Most Sincerely, Michael Guthrie #3297

• **FROM THE EASTERN REGION VICE-PRESIDENT**

As I begin the third year of my term as vice-president, I look back on the many accomplishments made by the NIA for the hobby and its members over the past two years. Upon taking office I knew very little about what the NIA did and generally took it for granted that things got done because "someone" did them. I soon learned, however, that it takes many very dedicated people who are willing to commit themselves and their time to get these things accomplished. ....But the Board of Directors still needs your help. I am once again asking for comments, questions, and stories from you. PLEASE...do not take this hobby or organization for granted.

One of the most exciting experiences any of us can ever hope for in this hobby is finding that dream insulator. Well, this past spring, about one mile from the road, on a sixty foot pole, in the middle of a swamp, a mint CD 331 Corning Pyrex 701 was taken out of service by Jeff Kaminski. The line was disconnected and slated for dismantling. Talk about luck. After walking about three miles of this line, it was found that the 701 was alone amongst hundreds

of multipiece brown porcelain. As a Pyrex specialist, I really envy Jeff this experience. I would like to hear of any other eastern collector who has found the insulator of their dreams lately.

One of the ideologies of the NIA is to help promote the hobby to non-collectors. To do this, I recently contacted my local weekly newspaper editor and point blank asked him to do an article on the subject. My preference was to discuss mainly insulators, but the personal angle was editor's choice and the public got to know me, also. Carol will be printing this article in Crown Jewels and you will note that some facts got misinterpreted, but the overall effect was very positive. I would recommend anyone doing the same in their hometown.

The development of a Show Host Manual is one of the projects that the NIA has proposed for the near future. I have been to some really fantastic eastern shows and I know they didn't just happen. Help us out and write up a list of the pros and cons of hosting as show. What works?.... What types of things should be avoided? Send in your experiences so they can help new show hosts put on great shows, also.

Thanks for all of your help, Jeff

• **FROM THE CENTRAL REGION VICE-PRESIDENT**

The N.I.A. Convention was held in Houston, Texas July 22-24, 1988 and was one of the best national conventions ever held. The three show hosts Elton Gish, Marilyn Albers and John Hall would like to express their appreciation to the dealers and participants who attended the convention. Their support made the show a huge success. A special thanks is due to Ken Canion and the Pioneers of America who set up a beautiful display of telephones and switchboard on loan from their museum. There were 19 displays (including seven categories) that brought out some competitive entries. We owe a debt of gratitude to all those who displayed. On October 1, 1988 the Lone Star Insulator Club will sponsor their first annual swap meet held in Pearland, Texas. Show your dedication to the hobby by attending a show in your area. There is a definite upsurge of interest in insulator collecting. There are many new collectors now. Let's pull together in a drive for new N.I.A. members, reaching for both new collectors and veterans.

Happy Collecting, John Hall

• **REPORT ON THE AWARDS BANQUET  
19TH ANNUAL NIA CONVENTION**

**HOUSTON, TEXAS JULY 22-24, 1988** One of the major objectives of the NIA is trying to enhance interest in the hobby in any way possible. To this end two Regional Shows and the National Convention are sanctioned and a number of awards are given to those who have endeavored to share the hobby with others through their service and display of portions of their collections.

It is always a special treat to see those honored who have contributed to the enjoyment of the hobby by us all. At the Houston National, the following awards were presented:

-- **NIA DISPLAY AWARDS:**

\* **Specialty**

- **1st place:** "Colors of the Past" (CD 162's)  
**Art Roberts**, Corpus Christi, TX
- **2nd place:** "Hard Working Suspension Insulators", **Tom Miller**, Somerset, TX
- **3rd place:** "Pennycuick Insulators", **Kevin Lawless**, Schenectady, NY
- **Hon Ment.:** "Complete California CD's", **Sid Marques**, San Louis Obispo, CA ; "Boat Anchors", **Ron Yugas**, Helena, MT ; "Kegs", **Jerry Mulrooney**, Pt. St.Lucie, FL

\* **Porcelain:**

- **1st place:** "Porcelain Classics", **Jerry Turner**  
Goshenk, OH
- **2nd place:** "Fred Locke, 1896-1903", **Elton Gish**, Pt. Neches, TX
- **3rd place:** "Cobalt Blue", **Pauline Ingersoll**, St.Petersburg, FL
- **Hon Ment.:** "Just Porcelain", **Larry Emmons**, E.Hampton, CT ; "Anything but Mud", **Jimmy Burns**, Conroe, TX

**General:** 1st place: "Fake, Altered, and Repaired Insulators", **Mike Guthrie**, Madera, CA

**Go-withs:** 1st place: "Telephone Signs and Booth", **Tom Vaughn**, Fairfield, TX

**Junior:** 1st place: "Current Treasures", **Nicholas Rodnicki Jr.**, Spring, TX

**Threadless:** 1st place: "Glass Hats", **Dennis Weber**, St. Joseph, MO

**Lightning Rod Balls:** 1st place: **Clay Carson**, Houston, TX

**The Milholland Educational Award:** to **Mike Guthrie** for the "Fake, Altered, and Repaired Insulators" display.

**Non-competitive displays** included "Orange Crush Memorabilia" by **Lee Garner**, Conroe, TX; "Threadless Tea Pot" by **Ed Lowe**, Santa Clara, UT; and "Telephone Pioneers Display" by the **San Jacinto Chapter 64** and **Ken Canion** of Houston, TX.

**Nor-Cal Insulator Club Award** for the best use of Western Insulators: **Sid Marques**

**Central Florida Insulator Club Award** for the best first time display at a National: **Jerry Mulrooney**

**Capitol District Insulator Club Award** for best use of Eastern Glass: **Dennis Weber**

**Bob and Phoebe Adams Award** for Showmanship: **Mike Guthrie**

**Crown Jewels Plaque:** **Elton Gish**

**Crown Jewels Ribbon:** **Nicholas Rodnicki Jr.**

**George C. Scott Probe Award** for Research: **Dennis Weber**

**Federation of Historical Bottle Clubs Ribbon**  
for Education:

- **Junior: Nicholas Rodnicki Jr.**
- **Adult: Elton Gish**

**Peoples' Choice Award :**

- First place: **Mike Guthrie**
- Second place: **Art Roberts**

It is important to look behind the scenes at the effort and sacrifices which have been made in order to win the above awards. Many collectors risk their most valuable and treasured possessions simply to share them with others. When you see these displayers, thank them for their efforts.

In addition to the display awards, the NIA has the option each year to recognize various members of the Association for their contributions to the hobby. These awards are *Lifetime Membership* and *Outstanding Service*.

This year two couples were awarded *Lifetime Memberships*: **Len and Jackie Linscott** of Titusville, FL are long time hobby supporters. Len served as NIA President for two years and also served as Executive Director. Jackie served two years as NIA Treasurer and is currently Director of Product Marketing, They co-hosted the 1977 Lakeland, FL National Show and have been involved with hosting all of the Titusville Regional Shows as well as the Central Florida Insulator Club Shows. **Pat and Shirley Patocka** of Penryn, CA are also long time NIA members. Pat served two years as president and as Western Region Vice-President. Both are active in hosting and supporting both the Nor-Cal Insulator Club and 49er Historical Bottle Club Shows.

The *Outstanding Service Award* was given to a shocked **Mike Guthrie**. The past year has been an indication of the energy he has expended on the hobby

and includes: Serving as NIA Information Director (Editor of Drip Points); running for and being elected NIA President; hosting the 1987 Fresno NIA Convention; writing a book and preparing the award winning display on "Fake, Altered, and Repaired Insulators", collaborating with Elton Gish on another book on Multi-part Porcelain insulators, and serving as Western Correspondent for Crown Jewels.

A privately sponsored award in memory of late collector, **Sterling Finch**, was awarded to **Steve Blair** whose London, Ohio Show is the longest consecutively running local insulator show in existence.

And finally, a special award was given to **Laura Monckton** of New South Wales, Australia. Laura flew 9,000 miles to attend her first NIA National Convention which will most likely stand as the permanent long distance record. Laura has done extensive traveling and research of Australian insulators and manufacturers contributing significantly to the body of knowledge in that area. By consensus of the membership, Laura was presented with a set of the beautiful LSV Commemoratives which had been donated to the NIA by Larry Veneziano (see Aug.'88 C.J.,p.29).

The efforts of these dedicated hobbyists are important contributions to the past successes and present status of the hobby. We hope to see many more and different names in these areas in the future...please support your hobby!

"The NIA"



• **NINETEENTH NATIONAL INSULTOR CONVENTION MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING ADAMS MARK HOTEL HOUSTON, TEXAS July 22, 1988**

The sixteenth general meeting of the National Insulator Association was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by President Kevin Lawless, who greeted the more than 80 members in attendance.

The minutes of the fifteenth general meeting held in Fresno, California and published in Drip Points in the October, 1987 Crown Jewels were approved.

The Treasurer's report was presented and reviewed by Kevin Lawless. Income was higher than forecast due to improved sales of N.I.A. patches, badges and shirts. Year end balance as of July 13, 1988 is \$ 3,392.28.

Information Director, Mike Guthrie, presented Western Regional Vice-President Shirley Potocka's best regards to all present.

Eastern Regional, Vice-President, Jeff McCurty announced several upcoming shows in the region.

Second Past President, Marilyn Albers, thanked Kevin Lawless and Mike Bruner for their support over the years and especially for supporting the National Show. N.I.A. Historian, Chris Hedges, requested that collectors write down and report where some of their good or notable finds were made over the years, before this information is lost to the hobby forever. Chris also noted that the Smithsonian Institute is starting plans for an electrical display including insulators. Anyone interested in helping with this project should contact Chris for further information.

Ethics Committee Chairman, Robert Nobbe, sends his regards to all present.

Marketing Director, Jackie Linscott, advised that the N.I.A. patches, badges, cups, and shirts are selling well.

- *OLD BUSINESS*: Three By-law revisions were presented as published in the June, 1988 Drip Points. A brief summary of each By-Law change is as follows:

1. *Article II, page 3*: Add paragraph 5 to restrict use of N.I.A. logo to members use for non profit purposes, and general use for personal or commercial purposes with approval of the Board of Directors of the N.I.A.

2. *Article VIII, page 8 and Article II, page 3*: Delete Article VIII as obsolete, except paragraph 6 which is moved to Article II (membership), and minor wording enhancements.

3. *Article III, Page* : provide By-law authority for the President to form committee's and appoint chairpersons as required.

All three By-law proposals were approved by the membership in attendance.

- *NEW BUSINESS*: It was announced that Mr. Paul H. Houpt had recently passed away. Paul was a charter member of the N.I.A. and a highly respected dealer and collector who will be greatly missed by all.

A brief discussion on the viability of acquiring ten year N.I.A. membership pins was conducted. The membership present was 50/50 split on the desirability of having these pins. The subject will be investigated further.

Outgoing President, Kevin Lawless, thanked the Houston show hosts for putting on a successful National.

Executive Director, Eric Halpin, announced the following shows for 1989:

1. **Central Regional** on April 1-2, 1989 in Cedar Rapids, IA. Hosted by Larry and Pat Whitlock.

2. **Western Regional** on May 6-7, 1989 in Paso Robles, CA. Hosted by the Central Counties Insulator Club.

3. **Eastern Regional National** on July 14-16, 1989, in Allentown, PA. Hosted by Doug Williams and Frank Edgar.

The show hosts or their representatives each spoke about the upcoming shows.

Outgoing President, Kevin Lawless, announced the new N.I.A. Board of Directors for 1988-1989.

**Mike Guthrie** - President

**Ross Huth** - Treasurer

**John Hall** - Central Region V.P.

**Don Reinke** - Information Director

In addition, the following committee Chairmen were announced:

**Rick Baldwin** - Show Standards

**Duane Davenport** - Nominations

**John DeSousa** - Membership

Kevin Lawless thanked the outgoing Board for all their help over the past years.

Incoming President, Mike Guthrie, commented on a few of Kevin's highlights while President including Kevin's work on the N.I.A. Accounting Budget, a position paper on fake and altered insulators, etc.

President, Mike Guthrie, introduced the new officers of the N.I.A. that were in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned until July 14, 1989 in Allentown, PA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Halpin #2768

Executive Director

• 1987/88 FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION  
ROD KRUPKA, TREASURER

BEGINNING BALANCE: \$ 1,578.06

REVENUES: \$ 6,210.83

Dues	4056.00
Dividends	72.53
Stationary Sales	150.30
Directory Sales	12.00
Product Sales	1878.00
Misc.	42.00

EXPENDITURES: \$ 4,387.46

Drip Points	323.16
Postage	602.91
Telephone	121.28
Supplies	275.21
Show Awards	294.09
Advertising	100.00
NIA Products	1275.08
Memb. Directory	600.00
Stationery	251.10
Miscellaneous	159.89
Membership	384.74

BALANCE: \$ 3,401.43