

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Well, this issue starts Volume 24 of the Drip Points - we've been in business a long time now. Won't be long before the hobby is "middle aged"! And, it's the start of my fourth year as your editor - I'm starting to get the hang of this job!

As most of you know, the election and appointment of new Officers and Chairpeople is now official. I'd like to welcome the President, Rick Baldwin, the new Western Region Vice President, Matt Poage and the new Executive Director, Rick Soller. Bob Stahr has been appointed to take over the Central Region

VP position. Dudley Ellis from, Stockbridge, Alabama is our new Nominations Chairman and Patti Norton now heads up the Show Standards Committee. Welcome aboard to all of you. And to folks putting your terms of office behind, I want you to know I really enjoyed working with you all!

You'll hear all about the fantastic Long Beach National later, so I won't steal anyone's thunder - but it was a great show! The fun part for me was meeting so many of the ICON (Insulator Collectors On the Net) Club members - it was great attaching faces to all those EMAIL

(Continued on page 2)

--

On a sad note, I just learned that NIA Charter Member Frank Miller (NIA #75) passed away last month in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The NIA expresses our deepest sympathy to the family. Frank was an active supporter of our hobby and the NIA and was the recipient of the NIA Outstanding Service Award in 1979. He was awarded NIA Lifetime Membership in 1981.

Tom Katonak

[illegible]

them my collection room. They were returning from their Northwest vacation and decided to take US Hwy. 20 to Chicago instead of the interstate. When they saw on the map that Correctionville was on Hwy. 20, they decided to stop. I suppose the name Correctionville and the last name of Hinkhouse were so uncommon that they just had to stop and see! I'm sure glad they did!

Respectfully,

Jim Hinkhouse, NIA #170
Correctionville, IA

Ed. note: Must've been a red-letter day in Correctionville!

I live only a small block from the cafe and when I was walking home, these two strangers were knocking at my front door. I hollered from half a block away "no one was home". When I got closer, the lady said I probably didn't know them, but she gave me a card "Crown Jewels of the Wire" - it was John and Carol McDougald! We had an enjoyable visit and I showed

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As your newly elected President, my first order of business is to extend my appreciation to the membership for their support and confidence. I'm looking forward to serving the hobby in my new capacity, and I think that you will see a dynamic Board that is focused on promoting our hobby, improving our organization and addressing many of the concerns of the membership in a competent manner. With your help and support, we will be working to see that the NIA is more beneficial to and more respected by its members. As I stated in my candidacy platform, it will take active participation across the membership in order for our goals to be realized! Please refer to the enclosed listing of Board members and Chairpersons for names and addresses of new people in these positions. I believe that we have some great new talent (as well as great old talent) getting involved, and that we also have an equitable geographic distribution of administrative staff.

You'll be reading more about the Long Beach National, but on behalf of the NIA and the hobby in general, I want to extend a big "thank you" for such a fine job that the show hosts, Dwayne Anthony and Dave Hall, and the members of the Central/Southern Counties Insulator Club did in organizing and managing the show. The facilities and arrangements were great and the banquet was nothing short of a "class act" in its entirety. The quantity and quality of the displays was unbelievable. It was also great to see the NIA scrapbooks with memorabilia from the early days of the hobby at the show again for all to enjoy.

The tabulation and correlation of inputs from the NIA 1996 Membership Survey are in progress, and specifics will be disseminated in future Drip Points issues. Only about a 20% response rate was realized, but a good cross-section of length of time in the NIA and of one's level of collecting was evident from all three geographical regions. An overwhelming majority of the respondents were satisfied with the NIA's mission and leadership, and other majority opinions were that the hobby will grow and that the respondents are not losing interest in the hobby, but there are many issues of concern.

"RESPONDENTS ARE

NOT LOSING INTEREST

Many constructive comments and suggestions were received from the membership, and these will be factored into current and future Board initiatives. Thanks to all who took the time to respond.

I'll briefly highlight some of the agenda items from what turned out to be a marathon five-hour Board meeting. Routine budget issues were discussed to some length, and some new expenses were approved, including subsidizing the NIA Directory printing costs and expenses associated with the support of the NIA site on the World Wide Web, which is proving to be an extremely effective advertising and promotional tool for the hobby. Dave and Karen Wiecek have put alot of effort into developing the script for the promotional video for the hobby, but they are in dire need of someone with expertise in video production to step forward and help with their project! If you can help or know someone who can, please contact them ASAP.

(Continued on page 4)

--

of this committee are presently in the beginning stages of being formulated. This will not be a single individual responsibility, and the support of the entire membership will be required in order for it to be effective. If anyone has an interest in participating in this committee's endeavors, please feel free to drop me a line for consideration.

Rick Baldwin, NIA# 336

FROM THE EASTERN REGION

still growing quickly. We have over 220 members now (up 45 members from just 3 months ago!). Clearly, the insulator community has a growing presence on the INTERNET. I estimated that about 1500 people have been viewing our Web pages each month. Don't you miss out! Be sure to take a look at the photographs, articles, research material, shows and more on the World Wide Web pages at <http://www.insulators.com>.

HTTP://WWW.INSULATORS.COM

Happy collecting, and I hope to see you in "cyberspace"! Drop me a message at Meier257@aol.com if you get on the INTERNET.

Bill Meier, NIA# 4322
Eastern Region Vice President

ICON (Insulator Collectors On the Net) is

FROM THE CENTRAL REGION

Another summer is almost over and the NIA elections have come and gone. Rick Baldwin was elected to serve as President and I am going to serve out the rest of his term.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those members who do not already know me. My name is Bob Stahr and I have been in the hobby since 1988. I founded the *Greater Chicago Insulator Club* in 1992 and have attended the last three Nationals as part of my growing interest in the hobby. I am an active collector and researcher and thoroughly enjoy "the hunt" and talking or meeting with other collectors.

The Central Region has a lot to look forward to for the remainder of this year. Alan Stastny's Ohio show will have occurred on Aug. 25 and if the post office is on time, the Central Regional in Houston, TX should be happening (Sept. 7 & 8) while you are reading this. The Greater Chicago Insulator Club show will occur on Sept. 21 & 22 and the Huron Valley show on Oct. 6. The London, OH show will finish the year on a high note (as it always does) on Nov. 9 & 10.

Next year should be equally exciting. Jim Crandall's spring show in Wheaton and Alan Stastny's swap meet/hog roast promise to be fun events. The highlight of the year will be the 1997 National. The National is being hosted in the upper half of the Central Region where we have seen an increase of collecting activity. Rick Soller and I are hosting the show in Rosemont, IL (a Chicago suburb) on July 25-27. The show will be held at the

Holiday Inn-O'Hare with a free shuttle to and from O'Hare airport and the hotel for those of you who are flying. The hotel is also conveniently located at the intersection of two major expressways. The last time a National was held in the Upper Midwest was in 1985, and Rick and I felt it was time to do it again. Look for future announcements about the show in *Crown Jewels*, *Rainbow Riders*, and *Canadian Insulator Collector*. We have some special ideas planned and look forward to seeing many of you there.

"THE CENTRAL REGION

HAS A LOT TO LOOK FORWARD TO"

Lastly, I would like to say that my door is always open to your concerns and ideas on how to improve the job of the NIA and the life of the hobby. Feel free to write or call me to make your voice heard.

Happy Collecting,

Bob Stahr, NIA #4186
Central Region Vice President

FROM THE WESTERN REGION

Greetings,

Being as this is my first report to Drip Points I thought I'd take the opportunity to state that I'm very happy to be your new Western Regional Vice President for the period of 1996-1999. I would also like to thank outgoing VP Grant Salzman for the fine job that he's done during his term and I wish him well!

The National show in Long Beach was a huge success--primarily due to show hosts Dwayne Anthony & Dave Hall who did a superb job taking care of everything that had to be done. I don't believe a finer hotel could've been found which gave a nice show hall and exhibition room and a great atmosphere. The restaurant wasn't cheap but the rooms were sure great! Many dealers there recorded record sales and I know several dealers spent some large amounts of cash picking up some nice pieces or whole collections. I saw the unique CD 150 Barclay which was bought up quickly as well as a CD 126 Rd 149959 in a great milky aqua along with alot of other glass pieces just too numerous to mention here.

Overall I was happy to see a continued large turnout to this show as well as other shows. It only tells me of a continued interest in glass and porcelain insulators as well as related go-withs. I'm not sure of walk-in statistics but I do know several people came in with glass and alot of questions. Some saw the local paper's article the day before the show which featured Dave Hall and his collection with a great color shot of Dave's California glass collection right on the front page--what a great way to advertise!!

On the Thursday before the show I was able to attend the NIA board meeting and learned quite alot. The meeting lasted just short of five hours and I can inform you that alot was discussed and although I won't go into too much detail at this moment, let me state that the NIA has not only been looking into such matters as new insulator finds that have been appearing, but is actively engaged as this letter is being written to get as many answers as possible for you folks that are looking for them. I believe that this is the most important issue that has ever faced or will ever face this fine hobby. It is certainly not a new one--all hobbies are affected by it in one form or another, but how we approach it will be the key to the outcome.

I believe that we must be uniform and not divided amongst our members and clubs that make up the hobby. I know that certain folks want to get answers one way and others another way. There is nothing particularly wrong with this. But what I don't want to see our clubs getting into arguments over which pieces they feel are real and which aren't--which would eventually lead to alienating members whether they be long standing ones or just beginning ones--and taking matters into their own hands feeling that there is nowhere else to turn and that the NIA isn't helping out in any way. This couldn't be further from the truth!!

My goal is to make sure that there is more contact with you collectors and that any

"MY GOAL IS TO MAKE SURE
THERE IS MORE CONTACT
WITH YOU..."

(Continued on page 7)

that will be discussed in the upcoming months and don't forget to send a letter or call. My address is listed at the end of this issue and although I haven't entered the world of the INTERNET as of yet, I intend to very shortly. Whatever method you want to use--fine! Just let me know what you have to say.

There will be more topics besides this one

A NOTE FROM PRODUCT MARKETING

Jill Meier, NIA #4323

- NIA-sponsored insulator insurance is available for your collection. It's a great way to protect your collection from fire and theft (See the ad on the inside cover of this issue.)

REPORT FROM THE SHOW STANDARDS CHAIR

Congratulations to all the recipients of the National Show Awards! Here's the list.

NIA Best of Category Awards:

Color:

Foreign:

General:

Go-Withs:

Junior:

Lightning Rod Equipment:

Porcelain:

Specialty:

Threaded Glass:

("Christmas

Dr. Frederick L. Griffin Memorial -

Best of Threadless:

Milholland Educational Award:

Crown Jewels of the Wire Service Award:

Bob and Phoebe Adams -

Showmanship Award:

Capitol District Insulator Club -

Best Exhibit using Eastern Insulators:

Central Florida Insulator Collectors Award -

Best First Time Display at a National:

Central/Southern Counties Insulator Club

Award - Best Exhibit using Southern

California Insulators:

Dixie Jewels Insulator Club Award - Best Use

of CDs (In memory of Jim Overstreet):

Greater Chicago Insulator Club Award -

Best Exhibit Using Power Insulators:

Nor-Cal Insulator Club Award - Best Exhibit

Using Western Insulators:

Triple Ridge Insulator Club - Best Exhibit

Using Denver Glass:

Lon C. Holly Memorial Award:

N.R. Woodward Literary Award -

Author of Best Research Article:

Sterling Finch Memorial Award -

Dedication to the Hobby of Insulator

Collecting:

Jack Tod Memorial Award:

Show Hosts' Choice Awards:

Patti Norton ("Fire and Ice")

Dan Howard ("Japanese Jewels From the Sea")

Mike Guthrie ("Early Patents and Other Old Stuff")

Ginny Way ("Old Fashioned Color")

Christian Willis ("Hemingrays")

Steve Bobb

Bill Rohde ("Ringed multi-parts")

Fred Padgett ("McLaughlins")

Eloise and Butch Haltman
in July")

James Doty

Fred Padgett and Mike Guthrie (tie)

Bill and Jill Meier ("The Web")

Richard Dawson ("Battery Jars")

Mike Guthrie

Butch and Eloise Haltman

Fred Padgett

Jim Barton ("Hemingrays")

Bill Rohde

Fred Padgett

Eric Grace

Jim Barton

Clarice Gordon ("Beehives, Part I")

University of Long Beach, CA, Library
Long Beach Public Library

Christian Willis, and Mark Hilton
("Maydwells")



Wesley Gordon
Clarice Gordon

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The following amendments to the National Insulator Association Bylaws were proposed at the 1996 National Insulator Association Convention, Show and Sale, Long Beach, California, July 19, 1996:

From the floor at the General Business meeting of the NIA, July 19, 1996:

Article V - ELECTION

2.0 Nominees for any NIA office will be listed on ballots which will be mailed to current affected members 60 days prior to the National Convention. Two weeks prior to the National Convention, all ballots cast shall be counted so that the election results can be announced at the annual membership meeting. **Nominees who run unopposed will be declared as "elected by acclamation" without the mailing of a ballot.**

Explanation: *By the addition of the last sentence, it clarifies the procedures to be followed when a nominee is unopposed.*

From the NIA Board of Directors meeting, July 18, 1996:

Article VI - STANDARDS AND ETHICS

3.0 The President shall form a standing committee, with board approval, to deal with the authentication of insulators and related items, and to address other standards issues as designated by the board.

Explanation: *This is a new addition for Article VI - Standards and Ethics. It requires the NIA President to form a new standing committee with board approval. "Standing" committee means that the committee can not be dissolved by action of the President alone.*

According to the NIA Bylaws, Article VII - Amendment 2.0, these Bylaws may also be amended by the membership at any annual meeting and without advance notice to the entire membership through the official publication, provided that the amendment is subsequently ratified by the membership as a whole. Upon publication in the next issue of the official publication, the amendment is ratified if fewer than 5% of the active members mail a written objection to the NIA office within 90 days from the publication mailing date.

The amendments proposed above will be ratified if fewer than 5% of the active members mail a written objection. The ratification process is separate for each proposed amendment.

Please mail any written objection to:

John McDougald, NIA Bylaws Chairman
5N941 Ravine Drive, St. Charles, IL 60174
(630) 513-1544

WARNING!!!

Recently I received two telephone calls from collectors regarding a suspicious person from Fairhope, AL. Both people were offered glass insulators at reasonable prices. I hesitate to publish his name until we can verify that this person is trying to cheat someone. We all hope that he is a legitimate collector. The guy's first name is "Olin" and he gives his telephone number as (334) 343-8511. This is an automated telephone answering service in Mobile, AL. I left my telephone number several times at this number and have never received a call back. The address that "Olin" gives in Fairhope, AL is the address of *Mail Boxes Etc.*

Since "Olin" does not have a normal telephone number or mailing address, PLEASE be cautious of any deals with him. This whole affair sounds similar to past problems with Larry Richards who lives in Mobile (and the NIA banned in 1995) -- which is across the bay from Fairhope. I'm not saying that "Olin" and Larry are one and the same. Draw your own conclusions and be aware of the potential for problems. As far as I know, only one person has sent "Olin" money. It is too early to tell if this collector will receive the insulator he ordered over the telephone. I hope that an early warning will head off a possible problem for other collectors.

If you are contacted by "Olin", please gather as much information from him as possible. I strongly suggest, after you hang up from talking to him, that you promptly dial *69 which will redial the last number that called you. This will cost you \$0.75 but it will help us to learn which phone number "Olin" is calling from. Your telephone statement will show "Olin's" telephone number.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who either has been contacted by "Olin" or has additional information. You can reach me at:

snail mail: Elton Gish, P. O. Box
1317, Buna, TX 77612
email: gishen@sat.net
home: (409) 994-5662
work: (409) 989-7161

The best rule to follow is: **Never do business with someone you do not know unless you can verify his credibility with someone you both know.** When you are approached by telephone from someone you do not know offering to sell insulators, find out who he knows in the hobby and contact them before sending any money or insulators. Happy Collecting!

**Elton Gish, NIA #41
NIA Ethics Chairman**

1996 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION MEMBER STATUS

AS OF 8-17-96

TOTAL NIA NUMBERS USED		6157
NIA NUMBERS NOT ASSIGNED		21
NIA NUMBERS DOUBLE ISSUED		60
NEW MEMBERS FOR 1996		240
	ACTIVE	INACTIVE (not paid)

MEMBERS	1353	4625
CHARTER	126	760
LIFETIME	33	10 (DEC.)
JUNIOR	20	19
CLUBS	3	9
NON U.S.MEMBERS	30	49

24 YEAR MEMBERS	44	0
23 YEAR MEMBERS	31	1
22 YEAR MEMBERS	15	1
21 YEAR MEMBERS	18	3
20 YEAR MEMBERS	21	3
19 YEAR MEMBERS	20	5
18 YEAR MEMBERS	17	6
17 YEAR MEMBERS	29	10
16 YEAR MEMBERS	16	15
15 YEAR MEMBERS	24	8
14 YEAR MEMBERS	28	17
13 YEAR MEMBERS	38	27
12 YEAR MEMBERS	38	25
11 YEAR MEMBERS	38	44
10 YEAR MEMBERS	30	48
9 YEAR MEMBERS	57	67
8 YEAR MEMBERS	47	69
7 YEAR MEMBERS	57	111
6 YEAR MEMBERS	73	145
5 YEAR MEMBERS	68	215
4 YEAR MEMBERS	93	325
3 YEAR MEMBERS	128	470
2 YEAR MEMBERS	183	911
1 YEAR MEMBERS	240	2099

MISC.

DECEASED MEMBERS	94
DOGS (NIA NUMBER ISSUED,BUT NOT ACTIVE)	4
MEMBERS ALREADY PAID FOR 1997	89

NOTES:

NIA NUMBERS THAT WERE NOT ASSIGNED (21) ARE DEAD NUMBERS
(NEVER TO BE USED)

NIA NUMBERS THAT WERE DOUBLE ISSUED (60). THE MEMBER WAS GIVEN
THEIR ORIGINAL NUMBER AND THE SECOND OR THIRD NUMBER BECAME
A DEAD NUMBER

With the addition of memberships paid just prior to and during the National Show, the total membership of 1353 is now nearly equal to the record number of 1359 set last year!

FROM THE SECOND PAST PRESIDENT

The 1996 NIA National Show is now history. David and I wish to thank each and every one of you who played a part in making the show a huge success. This includes the exhibitors, dealers, attendees and all the volunteers who assisted before and during the show. We could not have done it without you!

We also wish to express our appreciation for the flood of flattering letters and e-mail messages that were received after the show. Knowing that so many of our friends had an enjoyable time at the show really put the icing on the cake. All the hard work and effort put into the show is now forgotten, but the smiles on the faces of those in attendance will forever be remembered!

The altered insulators exhibit made its first appearance at a national show,

THE "ALTERED INSULATOR
EXHIBIT" WILL CONTINUE
TO BE DISPLAYED

drawing much interest and amazement from observers. This is the culmination of the past two year's experimentation with color

altering sources--as periodically reported to you in past issues of Drip Points. The

display will continue to be exhibited whenever possible to provide much needed education and awareness to collectors of insulators and other glass collectibles.

Another exciting project relating to the altered insulators project has emerged and is currently in the developmental stage. At its eventual completion, all current NIA members will receive a special treat in one of their future issues of Drip Points. Stay tuned!

As I now begin my two year term as Second Past President, I vow to continue my firm devotion to the NIA and it's membership. Our hobby continues to grow, and with this growth comes the expected (sometimes unexpected) growing pains. Be assured that the NIA leadership is doing everything within its power to keep all arising issues in check. If you have any suggestions, concerns or comments, always remember: we are here for YOU!

Dwayne Anthony, NIA# 3619
Second Past President/
1996 National Show Co-host

**1995-96 FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION
6/30/96**

Beginning Balance-General Fund	7/1/95	10388.84
Education & Promotion Account Beginning Balance		1556.00

Revenues

Donations	112.50	
Interest	0.00	
Membership Dues	7518.50	
Miscellaneous Income	15.36	
Product Sales	1688.00	
Total Revenues:		9334.36

General Fund Expenses

Advertising	105.00	
Bank Charges/Taxes	0.00	
Marketing Products	2545.66	
Misc. Postage	1219.54	
Misc. Printing	457.80	
Misc. Supplies	87.08	
Misc. Professional Services	0.00	
Crown Jewels Rebates	189.00	
Drip Points Printing	2626.96	
Drip Points Postage	804.38	
Show Advertising Subsidy	679.98	
Show Awards	166.61	
Stationery Supplies	159.13	
Telephone	202.78	
Special Projects	84.82	
Total Expenses:		9328.74

Closing Balance, General Fund:	10394.46
---------------------------------------	-----------------

Education/Promotion Expenditures	0.00
Education & Promotion Fund Final Balance	1556.00

Total Balance on Hand	11950.46
------------------------------	-----------------

1996-1997 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RICK BALDWIN, NIA #336, PRESIDENT

1931 THORPE CIRCLE, BRUNSWICK, OH 44212
(330) 225-3576

RICK SOLLER, NIA # 2958, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

34273 HOMESTEAD ROAD, GURNEE, IL 60031-4206
(708) 855-9136
EMAIL: com574@clc.cc.il.us

BILL MEIER, NIA #4322, EASTERN REGION VP

103 CANTERBURY COURT, CARLISLE, MA 01741-1860
(508) 369-0208
EMAIL: meier@amber8.enet.dec.com

BOB STAHR, NIA #4186, CENTRAL REGION VP

11728 LEONARDO DRIVE, SAINT JOHN, IN 46373-9448
(219) 365-4171
EMAIL: stahrrb@axp.calumednt.purdue.edu

MATT POAGE, NIA #3757, WESTERN REGION VP

9044 VANCE STREET, #310, WESTMINSTER, CO 80021
(303) 456-8230
EMAIL: wfgpoage@aol.com

MIKE GUTHRIE, NIA #3297, TREASURER

1209 W. MENLO, FRESNO, CA 93711-1477
(209) 435-6127
EMAIL: nsl8rguy@aol.com

TOM KATONAK, NIA #3567, INFORMATION DIRECTOR

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 HEIGHTS, OH 44147
(216) 526-3478
EMAIL: jjjb@aol.com

STEPHEN BOBB, NIA #827, FIRST PAST PRESIDENT

610 NORTHAMPTON ROAD, NORRISTOWN, PA 19403
(610) 539-6533

DWAYNE ANTHONY, NIA #3619, SECOND PAST PRESIDENT

1066 SCENIC DR., SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92408
(909) 888-6417
EMAIL: blobtop126@aol.com

1994-1995 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE

JILL MEIER, NIA #4323, **PRODUCT MARKETING**
103 CANTERBURY COURT, CARLISLE, MA 01741-1860
(508) 369-0208
EMAIL: jillmeier@aol.com

PATTI NORTON, NIA #5151, **SHOW STANDARDS**
234 N. 5TH STREET, PORT HUENEME, CA 93041-3004
(805) 488-7445
EMAIL: grover15@ix.netcom.com

DUDLEY ELLIS, NIA #5085, **NOMINATIONS**
131 PLANTATION WAY, STOCKBRIDGE, GA 30281
(404) 957-9928
EMAIL: pony102@aol.com

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

JIM GARRITY, NIA #44, **HISTORIAN**
RR #1, BOX 173, PAXINOS, PA 17860-9745
(717) 672-9326
EMAIL: jgarrity@aol.com

JOHN McDOUGALD, NIA #689, **BY-LAWS**
5N941 RAVINE DR., ST. CHARLES, IL 60175
(708) 513-1544
EMAIL: crnjewels@aol.com

DAVID WIECEK, NIA #3225, **PROMOTION & EDUCATION**
KAREN WIECEK, NIA #4672
63 REINMAN ROAD, WARREN, NJ 07059-5736
(908) 754-0909
EMAIL: dwiecek@lucent.com