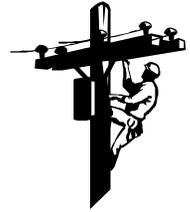




# Drip Points



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION

[drippoints@nia.org](mailto:drippoints@nia.org)

<http://www.nia.org>

**In this issue of *Drip Points*:**

- ◆ A Note from the Editor ... *Kevin Jacobson*
- ◆ From the President ... *Tom Katonak*
- ◆ Regional Reports... *Howard Banks, Ken Willick*
- ◆ From the Nominations Chair... *Jack Roach*
- ◆ From the Secretary ... *Robert Stahr*
- ◆ From the Authentication & Classification Committee ... *John McDougald*
- ◆ Historian Note... *Rick Soller*
- ◆ Financial Report ... *Dudley Ellis*
- ◆ From the promotions Chair ... *Bob Merzoian*
- ◆ From the Awards and Recognition Committee ... *Sandy Ellision*
- ◆ Product Marketing ... *Carolyn Berry*
- ◆ Membership Director ... *Joe Beres*

## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



This past quarter has been a busy one. I had just returned from the Western Regional in San Jose last August, when it was time for the fall issue of the *Drip Points*. As a result I didn't get much of a

chance to say anything about the Western Regional in that issue.

I really thought the Nor-Cal Insulator club did a great job. Many thanks to Michael Doyle, Dave Elliott, Bill Rohde, Colin Jung and all the others who helped bring this together.

I have been on several trips this past quarter, and one business trip required me to miss the 16<sup>th</sup> Enchantment Insulator Club show. It was the first time since I started collecting that I have missed this show and I was very disappointed. Tom and Lynda Katonak do a great job hosting the show. If you get a chance to go to Albuquerque the last weekend in September, there is likely a great show being held. Next years show is already

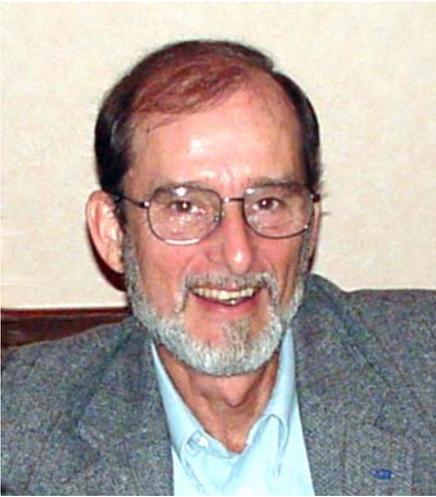
on the books in the 2004 show schedule.

There is a lot of good information in this issue of the *Drip Points*. I hope you enjoy it. We are short the color insert this quarter as there was already so much information presented that the size of the DP would have become too large. The next issue in the Spring should have the next color insert.

As the Holidays are upon us, be sure to check out the NIA Logo items available from Carolyn Berry on Pages 12 and 17. There are a lot of nice gift ideas there and your purchases help support the NIA and it's activities.

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

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings NIA members! As always, it's a fun job to "take pen in hand" and communicate with the heart of the insulator hobby.

It's been another outstanding autumn for collecting and for insulator shows – among the best actually. One of these events was particularly close to my heart. My bride and I hosted the 16<sup>th</sup> Enchantment Insulator Club show at the end of September. This turned out to be yet another great show with attendees from all over the states and a bunch of good glass changed hands. Maybe the details will be in an upcoming issue of *Crown Jewels*. The second event was a joint insulator hunting/mineral-collecting trip down to the southwest corner of New Mexico – "the Bootheel" as it's called, from which I just returned. Still interesting to note the few insulators in the air on the old El Paso to Tucson railway route, and more scattered on the ground. Besides, the warm sunny days in the desert down along the Mexican border makes one appreciate the beauty of this time of year down in the desert southwest!

Recent show reports from around

the country indeed indicate that the hobby is alive and well! And while I'm on the topic of shows, and NIA shows in particular, let me point out that we are now in the process of reviewing bids for the Regional and National Shows. The 2004 Eastern National is on track for New Kensington, PA on July 23-25<sup>th</sup>. And we do have some "potentials" in the making for the 2005 36<sup>th</sup> NIA Convention to be held in the West. On the 2004 Regional Show front, we have bids from the Western Region currently under consideration, but none yet from the Central Region. So here's a n

cated efforts of Steve Marks, Howard Banks and John McDougald (and many others!), I don't think we'll be seeing many more fake E C & M's on the market!

While the E.C. & M. fraud case was perhaps the most egregious case we've been working, it is not the only one. Our work continues on other suspect imitations and we're still working the challenging area of altered insulators. At this moment, we have a number of insulators in the authentication testing process. So stay tuned for more results.

**The 2004 Eastern National is on track for New Kensington, PA on July 23-25<sup>th</sup>.**

**And we do have some "potentials" in the making for the 2005 36<sup>th</sup> NIA Convention to be held in the West. On the 2004 Regional Show front, we have bids from the Western Region currently under consideration, but none yet from the Central Region. So here's an opportunity for clubs in the CR to come up with an event to be proud of.**

opportunity for clubs in the CR to come up with an event to be proud of. Contact CR Vice President Ed Peters and discuss your ideas.

In the fall issue of *Drip Points* we exhibited much of our evidence concerning the long-disputed imitation E C & M insulators. This was followed shortly by an article on the same topic in *Crown Jewels of the Wire*. As anticipated, this caused quite a flurry of discussion in the community. I am pleased by the numerous comments from many of you folks thanking the NIA for finally being able to formally expose this case of fraud which resulted in the loss of multiple-thousands of dollars to collectors. Thanks to the dedi-

An event that gave me great pleasure occurred this past month. Most of you know that for several years the NIA has been working with the Smithsonian Institution to catalog their wonderful insulator collection. Many of you have been personally involved in this process. The person in charge at the Smithsonian has been Ms. Nance Briscoe. She has gone out of her way to preserve the historical aspects and artifacts pertaining to glass and porcelain insulators and preserve them as part of the National archives – making them available to the American people for all time. At the National Convention last summer, the NIA Board voted to make an award to

*(Continued on page 3)*

Ms. Briscoe for her important work. So last month, I was proud to be able to send Nance a beautiful plaque thanking her for her dedicated support of the hobby. (see award plaque below)

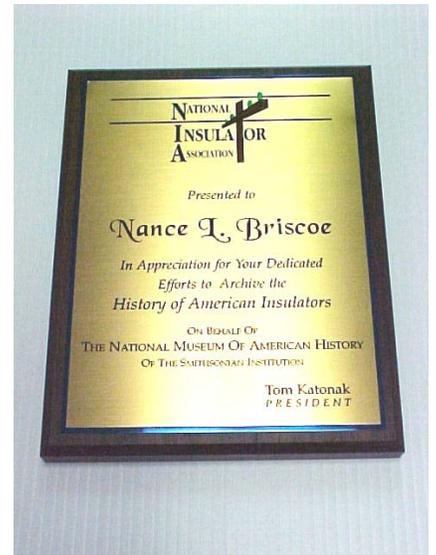
We look forward to a continuing relationship with the Smithsonian.

Finally, and this is an important topic, we have two positions coming open on the Board this coming summer. First, I will be ending my term as President. Second, the Vice Presidency of the Eastern

Region will also be coming up for election. Do we have some volunteers out there willing to lead this fantastic organization through another few years? Call Nominations Chairman Jack Roach or me!

I look forward to seeing some of you folks at the upcoming winter events. And don't forget to call or email me if I can do something for you!

**Tom Katonak, NIA #3567  
NIA President**



## In Memoriam

'Chet' Gordon, 94

Former Anchorage resident James Chester Gordon, a founder and longtime president of Boys Club of Alaska and owner of several Alaska radio stations, died Sept. 28, 2003, in Colorado Springs, Colo. He was 94.

Inurnment will be at the Lacrosse, Wash., cemetery.

Born Jan. 18, 1909, in Lacrosse, he graduated from Washington State University with a degree in English literature. Mr. Gordon married Josephine Phillippay in 1932.

He farmed in the Palouse area of Washington, where he began a lifetime of public service. He was a legislator in the Washington House of Representatives for more than a decade.

In 1956, the Gordons moved to Alaska, where they owned and managed radio stations in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Homer.

His family wrote: "The tragedy of his son Tim's death in an accident in 1965 motivated Chet to dedicate the next 14 years of his life to the youth of Alaska. He was a founder and president of Boys Club of Alaska.

"In 1978, Chet was named the recipient of Alaska's prestigious Chamber of Commerce Gold Pan award for community service. 'There are literally thousands of young men throughout Alaska who are better boys and men because of Chet Gordon's unselfish dedication,' a member of the nominating committee said.

"Chet collected a priceless treasure of antique railroad spikes, telegraph insulators and bottles. He discovered these artifacts in annual journeys through the Alaska and Canadian Yukon. Chet always kept in mind historical preservation. As quoted in an Anchorage Daily News article, 'I don't believe in tearing things apart from their natural settings.'

"Chet wrote for *Crown Jewels*, a national insulator collectors' magazine. He donated several decades of the magazines to the Smithsonian Institution, which now displays them in his name.

"The Gordons moved to Colorado Springs in 1994. Mr. Gordon corresponded with hundreds of friends who cherish his vivid, inspirational descriptions of history in progress.

"Chet Gordon led a life filled with passion for adventure, politics, sports and family. His dynamic spirit will remain in our hearts."

Mr. Gordon is survived by two daughters, Laurie Fontaine and Nancy Leckenby of Colorado, and their families; and nephews, Bob, Chris and Pat Owens of Anchorage.

He was preceded in death by his wife in 1998; and sons, Dirk and Timothy.

*Reprinted by permission of the Anchorage Daily News, Anchorage, Alaska. Submitted by Jim Sinsley.*













**From the Treasurer**

**2003-2004 FINANCIAL REPORT  
NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION  
FIRST QUARTER ENDING 9/30/03**

**Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085  
Treasurer**

<b>Beginning Balance-General Fund</b>	<b>7/1/2003</b>	<b>8905.34</b>
<b>Museum Exploratory Committee Beginning Balance</b>		<b>972.01</b>
<b>Authentication/Ethics Account Beginning Balance</b>		<b>2196.75</b>

**Revenues**

Donations	0.00	
Membership Dues	761.00	
Miscellaneous Income	250.00	
Product Sales	1936.45	
<b>Total Revenues:</b>		<b>2947.45</b>

**General Fund Expenses**

Advertising	0.00	
Bank Charges/Taxes	0.00	
Marketing Products	897.56	
Misc. Postage	143.20	
Misc. Printing	0.00	
Misc. Supplies	50.04	
Misc. Professional Services	0.00	
Crown Jewels Rebates	90.00	
Drip Points Printing	699.41	
Drip Points Postage	376.13	
Show Advertising Subsidy	0.00	
Show Awards	21.20	
Stationery Supplies	0.00	
Telephone	36.24	
Special Projects	0.00	
Education Disp Postage	60.59	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>		<b>2374.37</b>

<b>Closing Balance, General Fund:</b>		<b>9478.42</b>
<b>Museum Exploratory Committee Expenditures</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
<b>Museum Exploratory Committee Balance</b>		<b>972.01</b>
<b>Authentication/Ethics Account Expenditures</b>	<b>0.00</b>	
<b>Authentication/Ethics Account Balance</b>		<b>2196.75</b>
<b>Total Balance on Hand October 1, 2003</b>		<b>12647.18</b>







# NIA LOGO PRODUCTS



## Christmas Gift Ideas \* 2003



\*\*\*\*\*

Order your "NIA Badge" today....a great way to meet fellow collectors.

\*\*\*\*\*

**All silk-screened "gray" stock is reduced by \$ 2.00 per item!  
This includes: caps(now \$8), t-shirts(now \$13/\$14) & sweatshirts(now \$14/\$18), while supplies last!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**NEW!!** Denim Embroidered Logo Cap – adjustable, self-fabric band - \$16.00

**NEW!!** Nice Green T-shirt with Embroidered Logo - \$20.00

(new items debuted @ 2003 National!)

- \* Golf shirt \* Denim Shirt \* T-shirt \* Sweatshirt \*
- \* Cap \* Pin \* Mug \* Patch \* Decal \*
- Koozie<sub>tm</sub> \* Badge \* Bar \*

\*\*\*\*\*

Please refer to the Fall & Winter issues of Drip Points for the current order form.

\*\*\*\*\*

**The NIA offers a variety of products and appreciates all who make purchases to support the hobby!**

Please visit our website: [WWW.NIA.ORG](http://WWW.NIA.ORG) for color photos and an on-line order form.



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



**2003 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Tom Katonak, NIA #3567 President**  
 1024 Camino de Lucia Corrales, NM 87048  
 505-898-5592  
 tkatonak@comcast.net

**Ken Willick, NIA #3709 Eastern Region VP**  
 7349 Seneca Avenue Lima, NY 14485  
 585-624-3007  
 limaporc@yahoo.com

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

**Howard Banks, NIA #900 Western Region VP**  
 1560 Hugo Road Merlin, OR. 97532  
 541-479-8348  
 hbanks@grantspass.com

**Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085 Treasurer**  
 131 Plantation Way Stockbridge, GA 30281  
 770-957-9928  
 pony102@bellsouth.net

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

**Joe Beres, NIA #563 Membership Director**  
 1315 Old Mill Path Broadview Heights, OH 44147  
 440-526-3478  
 jjjb@aol.com

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

**Steve Marks, NIA #4951 First Past President**  
 3655 West Anthem Way, Suite A-109, PMB 413  
 Anthem, AZ 85086  
 623-551-0873  
 samsbusiness@qwest.net

**Kevin Lawless, NIA #1679 Second Past President**  
 3363 Guilderland Avenue Schenectady, NY 12306  
 518-357-2333  
 kflbostons@aol.com

**STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

**Charles Bibb, NIA #6097 Ethics**  
 P.O. Box 1 Inverness, MS 38753-0001  
 662-265-5134  
 zedkay@deltaland.nett

**Rick Soller, NIA #2958 Historian**  
 4086 Blackstone Avenue Gurnee, IL 60031  
 847-782-8602  
 com574@clc.cc.il.us

**Bill Rohde, NIA #1219 By-Laws**  
 Post Office Box 1008 Williams, CA 95987  
 530-473-2461  
 mudman@colusanet.com

**Jack Roach, NIA #4156 Nominations**  
 8 Tremont Trace Wimberly, TX 78676  
 512-847-7302  
 jackroach@email.msn.com

**John McDougald, NIA #689 Authentication & Classification**  
 P.O. Box 21157, Sedona, AZ 86341  
 928-284-3628  
 cpamcd@aol.com

**Bill Meier, NIA #4322 Awards & Recognition**  
 103 Canterbury Court, Carlisle, MA 01741-1860  
 978-369-0208  
 bill@insulators.com

**Carolyn Berry, NIA #4336 Product Marketing**  
 1010 Wren Court Round Rock, TX 78681  
 512-255-2006  
 pyrex553@aol.com

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

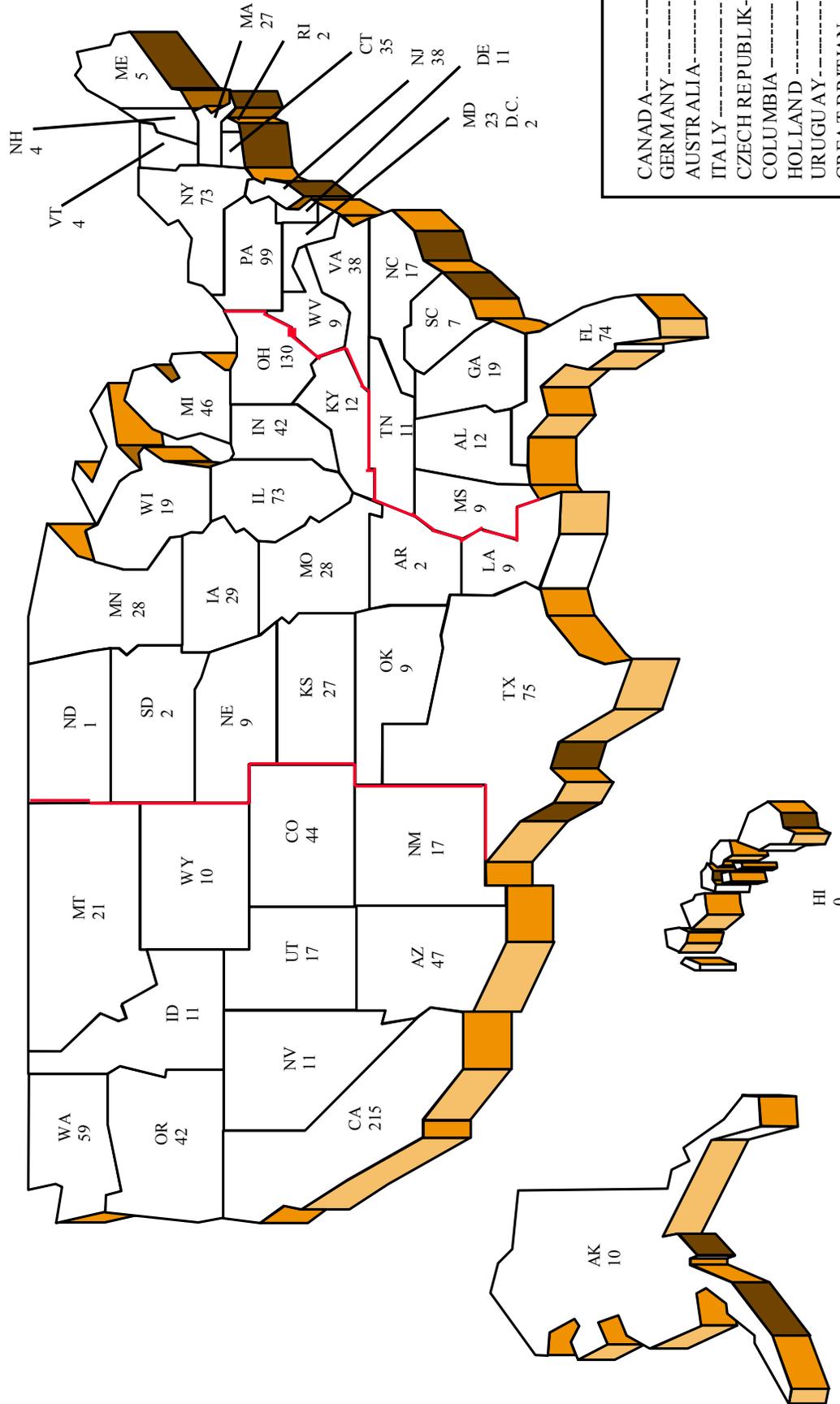
**Bob Merzoian, NIA#3941 Promotions**  
 1080 N. Scenic Drive  
 Porterville, CA 93257-1637  
 559-781-6319  
 bobmerzoian@mac.com

# 2003/2004 NIA MEMBERSHIP BY STATE AND COUNTRY

West - 504

Central - 541

East - 519



MEMBERSHIP AS OF 10-31-2003

**2004 NIA MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL FORM**

Submit: **(In U.S.funds) To:**  
**(Payable to the NIA)**

**Joe J. Beres**  
**NIA Membership Director**  
**1315 Old Mill Path**  
**Broadview Hts., Ohio 44147-3276**  
**E-MAIL: JJJB@AOL.COM**



**Note New Dues Schedule!**

Regular Membership----- \$ 12.00  
Family Membership----- \$ 12.00  
Junior Membership (under 18)---- \$ 5.00  
Club or Organization----- \$ 12.00

=====  
(Check appropriate Class)      Regular \_\_\_\_\_ Family \_\_\_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_\_\_ Club/Org. \_\_\_\_\_

(Check Years of Payment)      Single year \_\_\_\_\_ Multi-year \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Print**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**NIA # (If Renewal)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_

**State/Province** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip/Postal Code** \_\_\_\_\_ (+4) \_\_\_\_\_

**Country (If Non U.S.)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address** \_\_\_\_\_

Please include me in the Annual NIA/Crown Jewels Directory      **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_      **No** \_\_\_\_\_

Please include my Telephone Number      **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_      **No** \_\_\_\_\_

Please include my E-Mail Address      **Yes** \_\_\_\_\_      **No** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** I Would like to Receive Drip Points in the Following Format.      **Paper** \_\_\_\_\_      **Electronic** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Check Only One Choice) (Need E-Mail Address for Electronic)**

**Additional Family Members**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Nia# (If Renewal)** \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**2003 NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION MEMBER STATUS**

AS OF 9-30-2003

TOTAL NIA NUMBERS USED 7854  
 NIA NUMBERS NOT ASSIGNED 22  
 NIA NUMBERS DOUBLE ISSUED 70  
 NEW MEMBERS FOR 2003 161

	ACTIVE	INACTIVE (not paid)	MEMBERS
<b>1590</b>	<b>6003</b>		
CHARTER	118	697	
LIFETIME	37	17 (DEC...)	
NON U.S.MEMBERS	33	109	
CLUBS	6	5 (+3 Defunct)	
INTERNET WEB SITES	0	1	
COMPANIES/ORGANIZATIONS	0	4	
MUSEUMS	1	1	
31 YEAR MEMBERS	28	0	
30 YEAR MEMBERS	25	1	
29 YEAR MEMBERS	11	0	
28 YEAR MEMBERS	16	4	
27 YEAR MEMBERS	15	2	
26 YEAR MEMBERS	16	1	
25 YEAR MEMBERS (SILVER)	13	3	
24 YEAR MEMBERS	22	8	
23 YEAR MEMBERS	16	3	
22 YEAR MEMBERS	13	2	
21 YEAR MEMBERS	28	3	
20 YEAR MEMBERS	26	12	
19 YEAR MEMBERS	29	11	
18 YEAR MEMBERS	33	10	
17 YEAR MEMBERS	21	17	
16 YEAR MEMBERS	45	18	
15 YEAR MEMBERS	36	14	
14 YEAR MEMBERS	38	23	
13 YEAR MEMBERS	42	30	
12 YEAR MEMBERS	47	37	
11 YEAR MEMBERS	57	53	
10 YEAR MEMBERS	60	66	
9 YEAR MEMBERS	77	86	
8 YEAR MEMBERS	68	89	
7 YEAR MEMBERS	82	162	
6 YEAR MEMBERS	117	188	
5 YEAR MEMBERS	96	274	
4 YEAR MEMBERS	120	433	
3 YEAR MEMBERS	118	604	
2 YEAR MEMBERS	114	1161	
1 YEAR MEMBERS	161	2688	

MISC.

DECEASED MEMBERS (KNOWN) 170  
 DOGS (NIA NUMBER ISSUED, BUT NOT VALID ) 5  
 MEMBERS ALREADY PAID FOR 2004+ 284

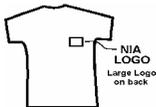
NOTES:

NIA NUMBERS THAT WERE NOT ASSIGNED ARE DEAD NUMBERS.  
 (NEVER TO BE USED)  
 NIA NUMBERS THAT WERE DOUBLE ISSUED. THE MEMBER WAS GIVEN  
 THEIR ORIGINAL NUMBER AND THE SECOND OR THIRD NUMBER BECAME  
 A DEAD NUMBER.



Carolyn Berry, NIA # 4336  
 1010 Wren Court  
 Round Rock, TX 78681- 2741  
 (512) 255-2006 -- pyrex553@aol.com

**NIA – Winter 2003  
 ORDER FORM**  
 Website: [www.nia.org](http://www.nia.org)



**Men's Golf/Polo Shirts\*** embroidered logo; some with pockets **Price Qty Total**

**\*Please call or email me for color / styles available - \$38.00**

**NEW\* Women's golf/polo shirts -- embroidered logo**

\*Sleeveless- white pique / navy collar (\$32)

\*S/S golf- butter yellow pique with navy/black collar/ sleeve band (\$38)

**Denim Shirt -- (all sizes orderable)**

**NEW\* Women's stonewash blue denim – sleeveless L \_\_ XL \_\_ (\$32)**

**Men's -** med. wt. pre-shrunk cotton -- stonewash blue -- left-side pocket

Embroidered logo S \_\_ M \_\_ L \_\_ XL \_\_ \$32.00

\*S/S \_\_ \*L/S \_\_ 2X \_\_ \$35.00



**T-Shirt --** Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weight - Screen-printed logo(front & back)

L \_\_ XL \_\_ (\$15) or 2X \_\_ 3X \_\_ (\$16) Ash gray – no pocket

Hanes Beefy 'T' - Heavy weight - Ash Gray; embroidered logo on left front, only!

M \_\_ \$18 (no pocket) L \_\_ XL \_\_ (\$20 - pocket) 2X \_\_ (\$21-pocket)

=>>NEW\*\*Seafoam Green; embroidered; M \_\_ L \_\_ XL \_\_ (\$20) 2X \_\_ (\$22)

NIA Lapel Pin – etched enamel; NIA logo \$5.00

**Sweatshirts --** Heavy weight – Birch gray – Screen-printed logo

S \_\_ M \_\_ (\$16.00) L \_\_ XL \_\_ (\$20.00)

=>>NEW\*\*Embroidered logo(front only) M \_\_ L \_\_ XL \_\_ (\$25) 2X \_\_ 3X \_\_ (\$30)

**Embroidered Cap --** Stone/Navy, low-rise, embroidered logo \$16.00

**Denim Cap --**blue denim, low-rise, embroidered logo \$16.00

**Mug --** 10 oz. - white ceramic w/ screen-printed logo \$7.00

**Patch --** light blue back w/ embroidered logo/red embroidered edge \$4.00

**Koozie™ --** The original Koozie™ fits any standard beer or soda can;

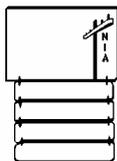
Silver screened NIA logo on: NIA blue \_\_ red \_\_ green \_\_ \$2.25

**Decal --** light blue w/ logo- red border; for inside car window \$1.00

**Name Badge --** white badge engraved w/ blue letters - screen-printed logo

epoxy pinback, beveled edges (**fill in form below**) \$12.00

**Badge Bar --** white w/ engraved blue letters (ie. NIA position) \$4.00



**Subtotal**

**U.S. Postage**

**Total Enclosed**

**Women's Size Chart:**

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

**Men's Size Chart:**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*U.S. Postage: \$5.00** for the first item & **\$1.50** for each additional item ordered.  
 Postage for Patches, Decals, Pins or Name Badges/Bars are **\$0.50** per item. **\*\*for non-US postage, AK & HI, please contact me for an exact postage quote!!**

*Please make check or money order in U.S. funds payable to: National Insulator Association or NIA*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Name Badge Engraving Information (must be a current NIA member!)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ NIA # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ NIA # \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Bar: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the back of this order form for additional badge/bar orders

