



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I can't tell whether Winter is coming to an end or not. I do know that a lot of folks I've talked to in California sure wish El Niño would go somewhere else. I guess the only good thing about all the rain in the West is that some old telegraph and telephone artifacts will wash out of the ground!

This issue is "action packed" for

sure! In addition to great regional reports, this time we have the candidate letters for NIA president and the Eastern Region Vice President. Elections are this Spring and the winners will be announced at the NIA convention in July. VOTE! Bill Meier used his forum to provide a great tutorial on the "Internet insulator web" and Rick Soller shares the "great events in insulator-dom" story. Be sure to digest both of these. Also, Dwayne Anthony

gives a rundown as to where we are on the educational displays that he's been working on.

Here's a brief word on membership: It's down a bit from this time last year. That means some folks have just plain forgotten to send in their dues. Not you folks (or you wouldn't be getting this issue!) - but people you know. Remind them that the

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Web browser is simply an application that you can run on your computer when it is connected to the Internet. Common Web browsers include Netscape Navigator (or Netscape Communicator) and Microsoft Internet Explorer. Some online services such as America On Line (AOL) provide a Web browser "built in" to their environment.

"E-Mail" – Electronic mail – Like the name implies, it is a way for people to send messages electronically over the Internet to other people. Each person runs an email application on their computer, and other computers serve as electronic post offices to collect the mail and route it to the appropriate destination. These electronic post offices also return email that is undeliverable – when the destination person's address is unknown – just like the USPS! Unlike the USPS, email is delivered in seconds, rather than days, and you can send your message to multiple people at once, without needing to make multiple copies of your message.

So, what does all this have to do with Insulator Collectors? Well... collectors can communicate with other collectors and NIA officials via E-Mail, just like they can with a phone call or a letter. They can access a wealth of information on Web servers, such as information from the Library of Congress, the Patent Office, and The Smithsonian, and thousands of other sources.

"The ICON Mailing List" – This is an electronic mailing list for Insulator Collectors On the Net. The

concept of an electronic mailing list is simple; someone sets up a mailing list name, people subscribe to the mailing list, and any email messages sent to the mailing list go to all the other subscribers. There are thousands of different mailing lists on the Internet, and there could be many mailing lists for insulator collectors. At the moment, this is the only mailing list, and I am the maintainer of it. This list has about 425 people on it now, ranging from beginning collectors to experts. A mailing list is a great way to share information with others. Ask a question to the ICON mailing list about insulators, and probably within a day you will

...an audience of
50 million people!
It's there. It's
working.

have several answers. You might even get some answers in minutes! Or, you can share a new find or a story about an insulator hunt with others.

"The Insulator Web Site" – This is a web site filled with information about insulators. Its name on the Internet is www.insulators.com, and I privately maintain it. A number of other collectors have smaller sets of web pages that talk about their own collecting specialties. Like with mailing lists, many web sites about insulators could exist, but at the moment, www.insulators.com is the primary source of insulator information on the Internet.

The future – Some people wonder if the Internet is "good" for our hobby. Having been involved with it for almost three years, I can answer with a resounding **"YES!"** I know personally that hundreds of people have found out about clubs in their area, joined the NIA, gotten information about insulator shows, ordered books and magazines, and have gotten their first

view of some unusual and rare insulators via the Internet. Or, just gotten a better understanding of those "glass things" they have.

A web site is also a great way to archive information. Color photographs, articles, and other information can be stored for very little cost. This material is also searchable. Already there are dozens of articles, photographs and stories of glass insulators in service, and archives of all the National and Regional exhibits since 1996 (provided courtesy of *Crown Jewels of the Wire*) available at www.insulators.com.

Some people are also concerned that since insulators are available for sale on the Internet, that this will take away attendance from local shows. I believe the converse is true. One quickly learns that the hobby is more than just owning some insulators; it is the interaction and sharing of knowledge and personal contact with others that make this hobby great. Soon after you own a few insulators, you *want* more information. You *want* more personal involvement. So, you get some of the reference books, you join your local insulator club, and you attend local and regional shows.

I know of no better or cheaper way to reach an audience of 50 million people! It's there. It's working!

**Bill Meier, NIA #4322
Eastern Region Vice President**

FROM THE CENTRAL REGION

This year seems to be starting off great. Rick Soller and I just finished hosting the GCIC club's meeting in February. We had a great turn-out of over 20 people. I am sure the mild winter weather we are having had something to do with it. Included in this group were no less than four people who had heard about the meeting from the Internet. Two of them have been collecting for years, and the other two had some insulators at home and just wanted to know more about them. I would suggest that other clubs list their meetings on the web site as an opportunity to meet more collectors or even to find some collections.

The NIA Central Regional is fast approaching and is being held on March 21 and 22 in Garland, TX. Unfortunately for me, I will be unable to attend again this year. I do promise however, that I will attend it in the near future. I'll be at the 1998 Collector's Jubilee on April 3 and 4 in Wheaton, IL and it promises to be the usual fun "Chicago style" show. The Missouri Valley Insulator Club is having another show on April 18 in Alma, KS. I wonder how many colored pieces will come in at this show in the heart of signal country! The next show I'll be at is

the Northwestern Insulator Club's show scheduled for April 25 in Bloomington, MN. I understand that this year's show is going to be bigger and better than last year's. Of course I'll make my annual tradition of going to Alan Stastny's Hog Roast/Swap meet on June 5 and 6 in West Manchester, OH. Dennis Stewart and Alan have been drumming up some new collectors in the Dayton/Cincinnati area, so I expect that this show will be attended by quite a few this year. I am also planning on attending the NIA National on July 31 - August 2 in Williamsburg, VA. This show is close to a large number of central region members and I hope that means I'll see a strong showing from you.

Please make special note that in this issue is the updated **NIA SURVEY**. Matt Poage and I removed a few questions from the previous survey and added a few key new ones. Please take the time to look it over, fill it out, and return it to Matt. This survey is important since your responses will help guide the NIA in the direction you want it to take.

The NIA has also seated the new

By-Laws Chairman and the new Historian. In our never-ending goal of resolving the issues regarding fakes and reproductions, we have already accomplished a major goal: Rewriting the NIA Code of Ethics. Rather than spending precious time at the annual NIA meeting, the officers reviewed the existing code of ethics and made changes to it over a several month long period. During this time, several of us discovered wording problems and new categories that were needed in this code. I'm sure that if this were to be voted on at the annual board meeting, some of these areas may have been overlooked. I can assure you that the extra time this took has really made an impact.

Please take some time to look this revised document over. The NIA will be tackling other by-laws changes in the near future, so if you have anything you would like to see addressed, please contact me.

As Always,

Bob Stahr, NIA #4186
Central Region Vice President

This survey is important since your responses will help guide the NIA in the direction you want it to take.

FROM THE WESTERN REGION

This issue of *Drip Points* is an especially important one as it includes the long awaited Membership Survey. We had originally planned this for the last issue, but it just didn't happen. In any case, you will find some important additions from the last survey - and some questions that are the same.

I'm sure some of you might think of disregarding the survey, but I urge you to lay aside any thoughts you have on that and please take the time (only a few minutes, really, and .32 postage) to respond. It will assist the NIA board immensely and it's a chance to air your comments (bad or good) so things can be changed or improved upon. Please mail your responses to: Matt Poage, 12771 Eudora Drive, Thornton, CO 80241. Note that this is a new address for me

as I have just recently moved, so please disregard any lists with my old address. In advance, thanks to all those who willing respond!

Now, another important topic: The 1998 NIA Western Regional Show. This notable event will be held here in Denver at the Holiday Inn on 120th and I-25 - which is easily accessible from all the corners on the compass. It's a great hotel and it has a great show

hall room. The show will be June 5-6 (Friday and Saturday - Sunday will be a "travel day" for everyone) and it promises to be just as good as last Fall's 1997 Western Regional in Albuquerque - and for all those in attendance there - you remember what a great show that was! Any inquires for table/display information should be sent to Bob Ryckman at 2120 S Vaughn Way #201F, Aurora, CO, 80014. One interesting note here: I have contacted News 4 (one of Den-

ver's largest and best news channels) about having a segment on their evening news that Friday night. If that happens, it could have a great impact on walk in traffic for Saturday!

There are many other western shows on the schedule, of course. These are detailed in the Crown Jewels, so I won't take up space here. Plan to attend as many as you can!

Note that this is a new address for me...

Thanks again for your assistance on the Survey and I hope to see all of you in June in Denver.

**Matt Poage, NIA #3757
Western Region Vice President**

...DRIP NOTES

- Dues are past due for 1998! Tell your friends to send their membership renewals to Joe Beres, Membership Director. Without an up to date membership there is **no vote** and **no Drip Points!**
- MOVING?? Please send your new address to Joe Beres: Don't risk missing your copy of the *Drip Points!*
- Elections are coming for President and Eastern VP. **VOTE!**
- Check out the NIA on the World Wide Web: Tune in to "<http://www.insulators.com/nia>" and see what's happening!
- Need an NIA shirt? Cap? Coffee mug? Fill out the order form at the end of this issue and send to Jill Meier!
- We need your responses on the 1998 NIA Survey: You can find your copy at the end of this issue. Tear it out, fill it out, send it in!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE TOP TEN DEVELOPMENTS IN THE INSULATOR HOBBY

The insulator hobby is well beyond its infancy so it seems time to look back and reflect upon those developments that brought us to where we are today. Just listing these is sure to cause controversy, but here is my list of the top ten developments in the insulator hobby.

Number 1: The publication of *Insulators: Crown Jewels of the Wire* (Now known as *Crown Jewels of the Wire*). The most important need for a hobby to form is communication between its members and this magazine did and still does just that. There were some predecessor magazines that published insulator columns like the long running column by Francis Terrill in the *Old Bottle Magazine* but this was not our magazine and was limited in the amount of space devoted to insulators. There have also been a number of magazines since including *Cross Arms*, *Canadian Insulator Collector*, and *Rainbow Riders Trading Post*.

Number 2: The development of the Consolidated Design (CD) chart. Once collectors have a forum for communicating, they need a common language and N. R. (Woody) Woodward's CD system provided that. Since most collectors favored U.S. glass pintype insulators over other kinds, this was the most important taxonomy and, as it turns out, the earliest being introduced in the mid-1960s.

Number 3: The formation of the National Insulator Association (NIA). Some kind of organization was needed to regulate and promote the hobby. These are still the primary activities of the hobby

and ones that many think the life or death of the hobby depends upon.

Number 4: The issuance of the first price guide. With a means to engage in commerce and some oversight of it, collectors, especially new collectors, next needed some idea of the relative worth of pieces.

Number 5: The development of the U-number chart. Collectors also needed a common language for identifying porcelain insulators to each other. Since the chart is so detailed that many collectors find it laborious to use and since there are fewer porcelain collectors, it is not ranked at the same level as the development of the CD chart. Nevertheless, there is a strong and growing following of porcelain collectors.

Number 6: Local clubs. Clubs are essential to the promotion and operation of the hobby. They give collectors a chance to get to know a smaller group of people and yet their large numbers allow the club to handle the work of hosting a local, regional or national show. They do a lot to promote the hobby and I wish there were more of them.

Number 7: Auction catalogs with prices realized. Price guides can only go so far in helping set prices. One-of-a-kind pieces, unusual mixtures of colors, or pieces with rocks and nails defy rules of thumb because these pieces come up for sale so infrequently. When they do, it's nice that everyone has a chance to bid on them. Information on prices realized provides some future guidelines for prices, at least providing some kind of range for unique insulators.

Number 8: The Internet. This is actually three things rolled into one. First there are web pages depicting various insulators and providing text to interested computer users. Second, there is a place to discuss insulator collecting. Finally, there are electronic auction locations where insulators are bought and sold. The Internet provides the most up-to-date discussion of topics, offers an easy way for interested people to find out about insulators, and gives an additional outlet for those interested in buying and selling insulators. This is one ranking that I could see being higher as more people get online.

Number 9: Commemoratives. If we think our hobby is worthwhile, our actions should reflect that. Commemoratives do that. In addition, they have become collectibles in their own right. Someday glass insulators will no longer be made anywhere in the world but as long as commemoratives are made, collectors can still get excited about a new insulator becoming part of the hobby.

Number 10: The Biography of Fred M. Locke. Elton Gish certainly set the standard high for future authors when he published this book. Fred Padgett followed with the story of William McLaughlin and his glass company that lived up to expectations of thoroughness. These books show insulator collectors are serious researchers as well as collectors.

Runner-ups: Identification guides are a must for any collectible so the M-chart deserves some recognition. Because beginning collectors may be hesitant to spend a lot of money to get started, books by

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...my top ten developments in the insulator hobby.

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Terrill or by Tibbitts offered low cost (around \$3) guides to people so they could ease into the hobby. These books came at a time when the hobby was really starting to get going. Tibbitts came out with his books between 1967 and 1969 while Frances Terrill published her 6 books from 1970 to 1972.

The National Convention, Show &

Sale brings collectors together from all over the world, has more dealers and more displays than any other show, is a feather in the hosts cap, and a place for the NIA to hammer out policy. As such, it is a major icon in the hobby.

The 2 volume set *Insulators: A History and Guide to North American Glass Pintype Insulators* is the bible of the hobby and would

have been much higher on the list if it weren't for all the other reference books that came before it and really laid a lot of ground work.

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

FROM THE NOMINATIONS CHAIR

The winter here in Georgia has been very wet and much warmer than normal. Most of the rain came out of the Gulf just in time for the weekends. I only managed to go on two insulator digs all winter. As the spring begins, I plan on breaking the winter doldrums with two more digs, the Dixie Jewels Insulator Club swap and sale, and the Huntsville Show.

In the winter issue of *Drip Points* I solicited resumes from those of you who wanted to offer your leadership abilities to fill two

positions in the NIA that will become vacant this summer. I have had three responses from NIA members wishing to run for NIA President and two responses for Eastern Region Vice President.

The following five resumes are for your review and consideration. Please read each carefully. After April 1, 1998, I will begin preparing the ballots. If anyone else is interested in running for either of these positions, please contact me before that date to insure that your name is placed on the appropriate ballot.

I will be mailing the ballots during the middle of May. Remember

that you must be a NIA member in good standing to vote. If you have not paid your dues please do so

...you must be an NIA member in good standing to VOTE!

immediately.

I will announce our new President and Eastern Vice President at the NIA business meeting during the 1998 National Convention. I hope to see you in Williamsburg!

**Dudley Ellis, NIA #5085
Nominations Chairman**

CANDIDATES FOR NIA PRESIDENT

JIMMY BURNS

To the membership of the NIA; Greetings! I, Jimmy Burns, announce my candidacy for the National Insulator Association's position of President. I have collected insulators for twenty-nine years and have been a member of the NIA for 11 years. My specialties include color porcelain, radio treated porcelain and the insulators of Jeffery-Dewitt. I am a member of the Lone Star Insulator Club, as well as the Dixie Jewels Club. I have served as an NIA

national show host and also as a regional show host. Annually with John Hall, I host the LSIC show in Houston. I have served in several elected positions and committee posts with the LSIC. I am currently the President of the Lone Star Insulator Club. My wife, Vickey, and I live with our children, James and Christopher, in rural Montgomery County, near Conroe Texas. I have been employed by the Splendora Independent School District the last 17 years and also teach Freshman English at the local Junior College. I enjoy writing and have articles that were

published in Hobby literature.

I have two reasons for running for the position of president. 1) Both of my sons are interested in collecting insulators. I have a vested interest in seeing the hobby preserved. 2) I have a vision of a hobby organization that is grass roots driven, rather than leadership driven. To these ends, I advocate the following:

AWARDS - 1. Creation of a new category to be awarded at each National - Non-Pin Type - more

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and more collectors are getting into this area because of cost. This would include both glass and porcelain pieces. (Examples: radio strains, neon sign insulators, non-pin type substation insulators.) 2. Study of the possibility of dividing the Junior Division into two age classifications. Children's (up to age 12) would have its own rules designed to allow younger children to participate. Junior (12-18) would be subject to current rules. 3. Establishment of an annual member generated process of nominations for lifetime service medals.

IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS
- As President, I will answer all correspondence sent to me by the members. I will also send out monthly reports to Local Club Presidents so that they can give NIA updates to their membership. I will also call each of these local leaders to discover their concerns about what is happening in our hobby. Also I would advocate the creation of a permanent chat room at the NIA Web Site so that members may discuss what's going on in the hobby.

FAKES/ALTERED INSULATORS
- In addition to the current committee, I would develop a policy that would use the full extent of the Federal Mail Fraud Laws.

ELECTIONS - 1. Establish deadlines for running for election. 2. Establish clear concise guidelines for resolving conflict in interest. 3. Create a policy of neutrality towards candidates for elected office where remarks aimed directly or indirectly at a candidate would be forbidden from publication in *DRIP POINTS* during the time of the election. 4. Provide for removal from office of any officer who directly or indirectly tampers with an NIA election.

A P P O I N T M E N T O F COMMITTEES - 1. Creation of a talent pool to identify those people both qualified and willing to serve. 2. Creation of term limits to allow more people to serve. 3. Creation of a waiting period of two years before a former committee member could serve again. 4. Forbid the movement of members from committee to committee. All of these would not only ensure **NEW BLOOD**, but would insure a

more **DIVERSE** group that reflects the **GRASS ROOTS** membership.

SERVICES TO MEMBERS - 1. Study the possibilities of fringe benefits packages for members. 2. Create ethics guidelines for dealers.

EDUCATION - 1. Use the internet more effectively to reach children in public schools. 2. Develop a reproducible package of teacher materials to be used in the class room.

MEMBERSHIP - To increase the membership, I advocate the following: 1. Reduce dues to first time members to five dollars. Dues would go back to \$10 dollars the second year. 2. Reduce the dues for former members who have not been a member in five years to five dollars. Again it would go back to ten the following year.

In conclusion, I believe that it is time for a President who can foster more participation in the NIA on the part of its Grass Roots membership. I believe I am that person and I thoughtfully solicit your vote.

KEVIN LAWLESS

Dear fellow NIA members and insulator collectors:

I would like to introduce myself to those of you in the hobby that might not know me, and to reintroduce myself to those in the hobby that DO know me. My name is Kevin Lawless and I am a candidate for the office of NIA President.

I am a lifelong resident of Schenectady, New York and am a telecommunications network consultant by trade. I am currently

Vice President of Wildec Technical Service, Inc., where I have been, first, an associate and then, partner, since 1983.

I have been a collector of insulators and an NIA member since the Lakeland, Florida National Show of 1977. I collect a wide variety of mostly glass threaded North American pintype insulators, with a collection of more than 1600 pieces, and maintain a substantial library of insulator books, magazines, publications and literature. I have been a participant (as seller at virtually all shows I attend and an

exhibitor at some of the larger shows) in more than 200 shows since I became a member of the hobby, including 19 National Shows and 20 Regional Shows.

As a member of the Capital District Insulator Club (CDIC), I have served as Vice President, Historian and Secretary, and have been newsletter editor of the CDIC since 1981 and show host since 1979. As a member of the Yankee Pole Cat Insulator Club, I have served as Historian for the past two years. I am also a

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current member of the Capital Region Antique Bottle and Collectibles Association.

As a member of the NIA, I co-hosted (with John deSousa and Doug MacGillvary) the 1986 National Show in Saratoga Springs, New York; the 1991 Eastern Regional Show (with Doug MacGillvary) in Meriden, Connecticut; and the 1995 National Show (with Steve Jones and Bill & Jill Meier) in Marlborough, Massachusetts. I served four years on the NIA Board as Executive Director (during the administrations of both Marilyn Albers and Mike Bruner) and then six more years as President and Past-President following my election as NIA President in 1986. In 1992, I was appointed as the NIA's Promotions and Education Committee chair, which I held for three years. I was honored by the NIA Board with a Lifetime Membership in 1991.

Although I seemed to have achieved most of the goals that anyone might want to achieve in the hobby, goals are not the reason I am striving for this office. Our hobby is changing rapidly and there are many facets of our hobby that are not being managed carefully or, in some cases, at all.

There has been a strong push over the past several years to attempt to rid the hobby (least, the NIA ranks) of undesirable elements and questionable insulators and, in and by itself, that is an admirable goal. Certainly, where anyone, especially an NIA member, is shown to be dishonest in their dealings or consistently incorrigible and refuses to make amends, the membership should be so warned and the offender's membership should be revoked.

To my knowledge, this has occurred only five or six times in 25 years. With more than 6,000 members in the NIA's history, that is a remarkably low number of problem members.

The number of "fake" and "questionable" insulators in our hobby is far less known. Rumors of early members with access to old particle accelerators "nuking" Postal beehives and Star signals and creating exotic new colors predate our organized hobby. In more recent years, questions about Hemingray (and Pyrex) carnival glass, certain lightning rod pendants, bullets, EC&M's, threadless, glass blocks, Californias, Denvers, lightning rod balls, commemoratives, blue Lynchburgs, amber Whitall Tatums and probably a whole host of other items I haven't heard about yet, have been hashed and re-hashed and re-hashed again.

With the lack of substantiating evidence to condemn any of these, or any other item, however, we are reducing the NIA to policing sales tables to remove offending items, am firm in my stand that this is not the NIA's responsibility, nor SHOULD it be. We do not have the expertise to ascertain ANY insulator's authentication, similar to the manner that professional organizations such as the American Numismatic Association (ANA) can, nor can the scientific community at a reasonable cost associated with it. I am certainly not the first to say that I am SICK TO DEATH of listening about fakes and what to do about them. The NIA, however, cannot and should not put itself in a position of judgment. It is the onus of a buyer to research a potential purchase. (LET THE BUYER BEWARE: If it sounds too good to be true, it

probably IS too good to be true.) Worse, the NIA risks ignoring the needs of the core of the hobby and spending too much time on just one topic is neither admirable nor constructive.

As a collector, I have been a strong proponent of educating novice collectors about HOW to collect insulators and what can be done to get more collectors INVOLVED in the hobby, in the hopes of replenishing the leadership needs in our hobby. I have been pleased with the number of clubs that have sprouted and prospered, many of them, seemingly, overnight. I have attempted to help many of them by sharing opinions, club by-laws, suggestions and, when possible, by supporting their shows.

There is a rapidly growing element in the hobby who are participating over the Internet and, specifically, with ICON and auction services such as E-BAY. While the Internet has grown, the NIA's participation has been very small, as we have not attracted significant new membership or participation in the NIA. It is time for the NIA to come up with a comprehensive plan to make use of the Internet, without disrupting more traditional forums, which currently include local clubs and shows, *Crown Jewels* and the various mail order auction houses. Keep in mind that there have been a handful of exciting new finds that have crept into our hobby through the Internet.

I propose, should I be elected as President, to drastically increase the activities of the NIA in the area of promotion and education. We need to be more than a support group for the hobby. We need to be proactive within the

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in 1989. I just received my NIA ten year membership in 1998.

“Been There, Done That!”

Yup, I’ve “been there, done that!” I believe I bring a special combination of knowledge and experience to the position of President. I am young enough to remember what it was like starting out as a new collector with “every possible Hemingray” (Hemi-42’s Hemi-16’s, Hemi-40’s, Hemi-9’s) in “every possible color” (Hemingray Blue, Aqua, and Clear), and the thrill of attending my first insulator show – The 1989 Allentown National! But, being very actively involved in the hobby for almost ten years, I am also experienced in nearly every facet of the hobby.

The Past and the Future

That is all in the past now, what about the future? The hobby is entering its second generation; some old timers are no longer with us, and newer collectors are entering the hobby. A number of the early collectors were related to the utility industry; today we have collectors of all ages from all walks of life. The hobby is also maturing, and going through “growing pains.” Now, some people buy insulators as investments, and others try to capitalize on unknowing collectors with the introduction of fake and altered insulators into the hobby.

Promotion and Education – The Key

I believe that promotion and education is the key to the future of this hobby. I take a very broad view of each of those words, such that together they encompass nearly every formal aspect of the hobby. Magazines, books, web

sites, clubs, shows, the NIA and its committees, all are part of this. So is the individual collector who shows an insulator to his friend, or explains the difference between “Hemingray Blue” and “Aqua” to a new collector.

I truthfully don’t see that the hobby needs radical changes. I see that some refinements, improvements and some change of focus are needed.

Nuts & Bolts

To produce a booklet designed specifically for the new collector. Something in between the current “*What Are Insulators?*” and a complete reference set such as the *McDougalds’ Volume I&II*.

- To develop a nationwide “mentoring network” where new and beginning collectors can locate, access, and visit more knowledgeable collectors in their geographical area. Local insulator clubs can help serve this function in some areas.
- Recognize that “a successful show” involves four parts: 1) Planning, organization and advertising by the show host, 2) having enough dealers with saleable items, 3) having enough collectors attend, and 4) having enough “walk through” attendance to help promote the hobby.
- To vigorously support the activities of the Research and Authentication committee, and the four subcommittees, with one goal being to produce a guide for collectors.
- To maintain more written documents accessible to the collector about the activities of the NIA board.

- For the first time in years, I believe we now have a Historian that will be able to make progress. Goals would be to begin sorting through the massive amount of archive material, and producing scrap books and other material available at Regional and National shows, and on the Internet. In addition, the Historian would provide a quarterly column in *Drip Points*.
- Work with the Historian and that committee to collect, record, and archive information from older collectors that is not written down and may be lost forever. This would include historically significant information, as well as the stories and anecdotes that are verbally passed around.
- Refocus the Promotion and Education Committee’s goal of producing a video, to producing a slide show or multimedia presentation, which could be transferred to video later.
- To create and organize standardized forms and templates for common purposes; especially to assist National and Regional show hosts.
- Encourage the promotion of the hobby at the local level by collectors. Develop a “program guide” to assist those giving talks or setting up displays at libraries, schools or clubs.
- Continue to use the NIA web site on the Internet to promote the hobby.
- To use the NIA web site as

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NIA CODE OF ETHICS

These definitions and mandates have been adopted by the NIA Board of Directors to guide membership in conducting their collecting and dealing activities honorably, honestly and in a manner which will present a good image of the hobby to the public.

Definitions:

1. "Original Insulators" are defined as any device, that was originally manufactured with the intent to be utilized for separating and/or supporting conductors or to otherwise prevent the undesired flow of electricity.

2. "Commemorative Insulators" are insulators that are manufactured to commemorate a specific event, promotion, or other purpose. For example, this commemoration may be related to the insulator collecting hobby (as in connection with the NIA's National Show and Convention), or it may be related to the production of insulators for the telegraph/telephone industry (as in the case of the swirl colored McLaughlin CD 162 and VTS CD 102 insulators).

3. "Imitation Insulators" are ones that purport to be, but in fact are not, original insulators, commemorative insulators, or salesman samples. This category includes, but is not limited to, reproductions, copies, replicas, or counterfeits of original insulators, commemorative insulators or salesman samples.

4. "Altered Insulators" include original insulators, commemorative insulators or salesman samples which have been intentionally altered from their originally manufactured

condition in a manner other than described under "Restored Insulators", below. This category includes, but is not limited to, mechanical actions (i.e. sandblasting, grinding, embossing modifications, etc.), heating, cutting and re-gluing, irradiation, dying and painting, and non-factory carnival coating. Altered insulators are deemed to be objectionable to the best interests of the hobby.

5. "Restored Insulators" are original insulators, commemorative insulators or salesman samples, that at some point-in-time have been subjected to some type of physical damage such as chipping, bruising, or complete breakage, but have been repaired in some way to make them appear as near to their original factory intended appearance as possible. This may be accomplished by the use of various methods such as re-gluing, fill-in, fracture sealing, extensive tumbling, etc. Restored insulators are not required to be permanently marked as is the case with imitation insulators. The NIA does however require that any repair to an insulator be disclosed to a potential buyer. It is important to note that for an insulator to be deemed "restored", the repair must not enhance the insulator beyond what would have been its original factory intended appearance (i.e. removal of drip points or threads, change in color, etc.): To do so would make it an altered insulator.

6. "Salesman Samples" are models of insulators carried by salesmen, originally manufactured by insulator companies to promote the sale of their insulators to commercial customers. Salesman samples were often produced in a smaller scale for ease of transportation by the salesmen.

7. "Miniature Insulators" are scale reproductions or replicas of full size insulators, and are imitation insulators. Miniature insulators which were produced to commemorate a specific event, promotion, or other purpose, usually related to the insulator collecting hobby or telephone/telegraph industry, are commemorative insulators.

8. "Objectionable to the Best Interests of the Hobby" includes, but is not limited to, any action or item which is likely to cause financial damage and/or loss, ill will, or injury to collectors or organizations involved in the collecting of insulators and related items. For example, a false or misleading representation of fact likely to cause confusion, and/or the possibility of the use of an insulator to commit fraud (either by the issuing party or through a subsequent party).

9. "NIA Approved" is a term reserved for use by the NIA Board of Directors pursuant to the authority granted to it in Article II, Sec. 5.0 of the NIA By-Laws. Upon application to the Board of Directors, an NIA member may apply for use of the term "NIA Approved" in conjunction with the manufacture and sale of commemorative insulators.

10. "Manufactured in Accordance with NIA Guidelines" is a term reserved for use by the NIA Board of Directors pursuant to the authority granted to it in Article II, Sec. 5.0 of the NIA By-Laws. Upon application to the Board of Directors, an NIA member may apply for use of the term "Manufactured in Accordance with NIA Guidelines" in conjunction with the manufacture and sale of

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imitation insulators. Use of this term means that those engaged in the manufacturing of this particular insulator, have agreed to mark the imitation in a manner acceptable to the NIA to minimize the possibility that the item may be mistaken for, or misrepresented as, an original insulator.

11. "Permanently Marked" is defined as an identifying letter, number, etc., or a combination thereof, that cannot be removed from an imitation or altered insulator without obvious and conspicuous damage to it. Ordinarily such a mark will be that of an impression (as opposed to an embossing which has the potential for removal). However, due to the diverse styles of insulators, the NIA reserves the right to determine what constitutes permanent marking on a case by case basis for imitation and altered insulators.

NIA Members:

1. shall not make or manufacture any commemorative or imitation insulator, or related item without first clearing the design with the NIA to make certain that the item produced will not be objectionable to the best interests of the hobby.

2. shall not make or manufacture, advertise, exhibit or introduce into the hobby for distribution (including buying, selling or trading), any imitation insulator which is not plainly and permanently marked "reproduction" with the calendar year in which such item was manufactured. Where the physical size limitation of an insulator prohibits such a marking (as in the case of miniature imitation insulators), the calendar

year will suffice.

3. shall not make or manufacture, advertise, exhibit or introduce into the hobby for distribution (including buying, selling or trading), any imitation insulator or related item deemed by the NIA to be objectionable to the best interests of the hobby, unless pre-approved by the NIA for educational purposes.

4. shall not make or manufacture, advertise, exhibit or introduce into the hobby for distribution (including buying, selling or trading), any altered insulator or related item which is not plainly and permanently marked "fake", unless pre-approved by the NIA for educational purposes.

5. shall make every effort to comply with standards established by the NIA for accurate description of the type and condition of insulators.

6. shall carry out trade and sale transactions expeditiously and fairly to the satisfaction of all parties involved. The NIA recommends that transactions be completed to the satisfaction of all parties involved within 30 days. This allows collectors to pursue "second opinions" if they so desire, as to the authenticity of a piece, (i.e. original, restored or imitation). It also protects the seller by defining a time period of reasonable expectation for closure on a deal. However, buyers and sellers are free to structure their own approval terms and conditions to govern their transactions.

7. shall conduct their collecting activities in a lawful manner.

8. shall refrain from inferring to the public that the NIA or its members condone any harmful or unlawful practices in the pursuit of the hobby.

9. shall not knowingly misrepresent the rarity or value of insulators or related items they offer for sale or trade.

10. shall not make public accusations to fellow collectors about the possible misconduct of any collector or club, and shall refer such matters to the NIA Board of Directors for investigation, and if necessary, arbitration.

11. shall not use any NIA emblems, insignia or credentials in any manner detrimental to the interests of the NIA, and shall report to the NIA any such use by others.

12. shall abide by all rules and policies established by the NIA and not be a disruptive or disturbing influence at any NIA meetings or insulator shows.



FINANCIAL REPORT GOES HERE

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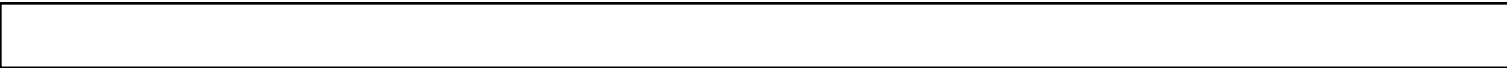
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