

## **CODE OF ETHICS**

(Bylaws, Article 7, Sec. 7.1(b, c) & Bylaws, Article 19)

The following mandates govern NIA members' conduct. Any member found by the Board of Directors to be in violation of any of these mandates risks loss of privileges, suspension, and / or expulsion (Reference Bylaws, Article 4, Section 4.6, Removal of a Member) from the NIA. Refer to the "Definitions and Terminology Chapter" of this Handbook.

Obviously, these ethics must take into account the fact that an enormous body of previously produced material exists and must be grandfathered. Specifically, the NIA commemorative, as traditionally designed, has been recognized by the NIA Board and the hobby at large to be an authorized Imitation Insulator.

### **ETHICS MANDATES**

#### **NIA Members:**

1. Shall, to the best of their ability, conduct themselves honorably, honestly and in a manner which reflects respect for the NIA, its members and affiliated clubs, and contributes to the best interests of the insulator collecting hobby as a whole.
2. Shall conduct themselves in a lawful manner, and in a manner that does not present a disruptive influence at any NIA sponsored or endorsed gathering.
3. Shall refrain from conducting themselves in any manner that reflects poorly on the NIA or suggests that the NIA condones harmful or unlawful practices in pursuit of the hobby. Such conduct may lead to loss of privileges, suspension, and / or expulsion from the NIA.
4. Shall conduct their insulator collecting hobby transactions fairly and expeditiously. Members on either side of a transaction found to have conducted themselves in a disingenuous manner risk loss of privileges, suspension, and / or expulsion from the NIA.
5. Shall make every reasonable effort to comply with grading standards established by the NIA for the accurate description of the type and condition of insulators. (Refer to the chapter titled "Grading Standards")
6. Shall make every reasonable effort to accurately represent the rarity and value of any hobby related item(s) that they intend to introduce into the hobby for distribution, including buying, selling, auctioning, or trading.
7. Shall treat all NIA graphics and credentials as proprietary and refrain from displaying such material in any manner contrary to the best interests of the NIA. Members who observe what they believe to be abusive or inappropriate use of such material must bring such use to the attention of any member of the current NIA Board of Directors.
8. Who produce or contract for the production of any hobby related material whatsoever found by the Board of Directors to be contrary to the best interests of the hobby risk loss of privileges, suspension, and / or expulsion from the NIA.

9. Who intend to produce or contract for the production of and distribute any hobby related material, for educational purposes or otherwise, must abide by the requirements set forth in the “Guidelines for the Production and Sale of Imitation Insulators.” The spirit of this rule is to ensure that all commemorative and imitation material that is produced by our members will contribute to the best interests of the hobby.

10. Who are found by the Board of Directors to have produced, contracted for production, advertised, exhibited, or introduced into the hobby for distribution, including buying, selling, auctioning, or trading, any authentic reproduction, commemorative, imitation insulator or related item, for educational purposes or otherwise, not plainly and permanently marked "reproduction" with the calendar year in which the item was manufactured risk loss of privileges, suspension, and / or expulsion from the NIA. If the physical size of the item renders such markings impractical, as in the case of miniature imitation insulators, the Board of Directors will address these issues on a case-by-case basis. If an item is classified as “altered” it must be plainly and permanently marked “FAKE.” (Refer to the chapter titled “Definitions and Terminology”)

11. Who observe or become aware of what they believe to be misconduct by any person, persons, or organization are cautioned against gossiping and are advised to share such information only with any member of the current NIA Board of Directors or the Ethics Advisor.