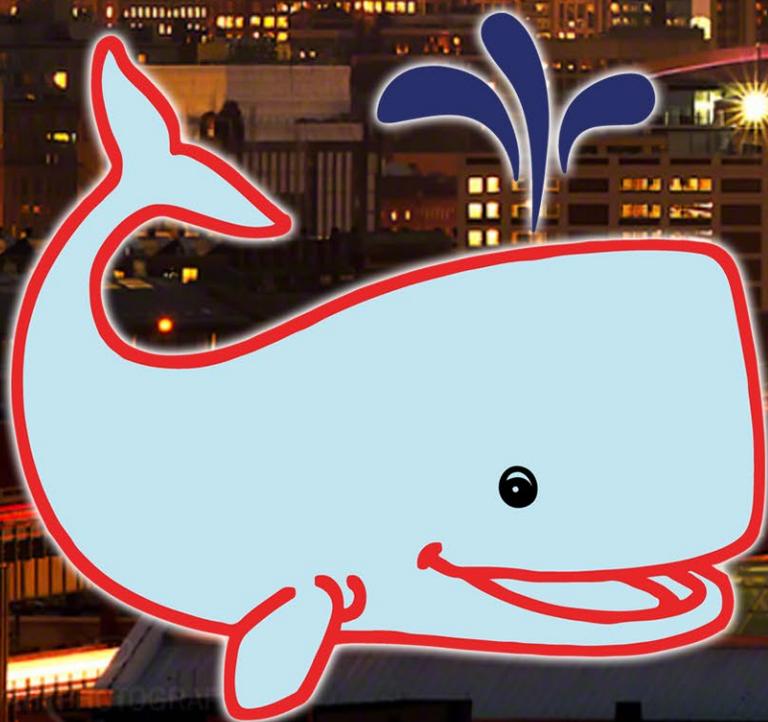


**THE 56TH NATIONAL INSULATOR ASSOCIATION  
CONVENTION, SHOW, AND SALE  
JUNE 27-29, 2025  
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS**



Boston Skyline

# The 56th National Insulator Association Convention, Show, and Sale

**June 27-29, 2025**

Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel  
181 Boston Post Road West (Rt. 20)  
Marlborough, MA 01752



**WELCOME:** The Yankee Pole Cat Insulator Club is excited to host the 56th National! For those who remember, the 26th National Show was held in this hotel 30 years ago, with Bill and Jill Meier as two of the co-hosts. Dario DiMare, Bill Meier, and Jill Meier are teaming up for the show this year. We are working hard to make this a fun and enjoyable National! Marlborough is only 30 miles (45 minutes) from Boston, and you can spend hours sightseeing in and around the city. Come and make it a vacation!

**RESERVATIONS:** There is a discounted rate of \$154.00, which is valid for three days before and after the show. If you will only be staying Thursday night through Sunday morning (or part of that time), you can use this link: [https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotel-rooms.22024.html?groupId=G79CH6N1](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.22024.html?groupId=G79CH6N1). Otherwise, you must call in your reservation at (508) 460-0700 and mention the group code "National Insulator Association."

**AIR TRAVEL:** Boston, MA (40 miles), Logan International Airport; Providence, RI (60 miles) TF Green International Airport; Worcester, MA (32 miles) Worcester Regional Airport; Manchester, NH (55 miles) Manchester-Boston Regional Airport; Hartford, CT (90 miles) Bradley International Airport.

**PARKING:** Free parking is available at the show hotel. RV parking is available without hook-ups.

**ADMISSION:** 3-day General Admission is \$5.00. Free admission is available for dealers/exhibitors and their spouses or one helper. No charge for children under 12 years old.

**DEALERS:** Sales tables (6') are \$70 for the first table and \$65 for additional tables. Electricity is \$35.

**EXHIBITORS:** Tables (6') and/or spaces with electricity are provided.

**PACKAGES:** Send to Dario DiMare: Dario Designs, 318 Main Street Suite 210, Northborough, MA 01532

**SHOW DIRECTORY:** A show directory will be available for \$3. An advertising form is included in this packet.

**FOOD:** Box lunches will be available on Friday and Saturday. A banquet will be held on Saturday evening.

**WHALE WATCH TOUR:** Several tours, including a whale watch, are planned.

**MONEY MATTERS:** PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS OUT TO THE **NIA**. Mail to Jill Meier with your reservations.

**MORE INFORMATION:** Visit [www.nia.org/shows/2025\\_national](http://www.nia.org/shows/2025_national), or contact one of the show hosts below

**SHOW HOSTS:**

**Dario DiMare**

318 Main Street, #210  
Northborough, MA 01532  
617-306-2420  
dario@dariodesigns.com

**Bill and Jill Meier**

103 Canterbury Ct  
Carlisle, MA 01741  
Bill: 781-999-3048      Jill: 781-999-3049  
bill@insulators.info      jill@insulators.info

Rev: 1.2  
Date: 8/30/24

*In conjunction with the Yankee Pole Cat Insulator Club*

# Show Itinerary

## Thursday, June 26

7:30 am – 8:30 am	NIA Board of Directors breakfast	Duchess Room
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Whale tour, New England Aquarium, etc.	Boston area
8:30 am – 3:00 pm	NIA Board of Directors meeting	Duchess Room
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Dealer unloading only, Exhibitor setup	Ballroom
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Hospitality room	Hospitality room

## Friday, June 27

7:00 am – 9:00 am	Dealer/Exhibitor unloading and setup	Ballroom
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Show hours – NIA Members only	Ballroom
4:15 pm – 5:30 pm	NIA General Membership meeting	Seminar Room
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Hospitality room	Hospitality room

## Saturday, June 28

8:00 am – 9:00 am	Dealer/Exhibitor setup	Ballroom
9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Show hours – General Admission	Ballroom
5:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Reception – Cash Bar	Courtyard
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Awards Banquet	Courtyard

## Sunday, June 29

8:00 am – 8:30 am	Sunday Devotion	Seminar Room
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Dealer/Exhibitor setup	Ballroom
9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Show hours – General Admission	Ballroom
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Dealer/Exhibitor teardown	Ballroom



# Sales Table Reservation & Agreement

I and my representatives (i.e. participating family members, helpers, other dealers, etc.) agree to abide by the NIA General Show floor rules, code of ethics, and any special rules, as specified in the information included in the show packet. I understand that neither the National Insulator Association (NIA), its officers and committee members, the show hosts, nor the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and their respective owners, managers, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, and agents will be responsible for the theft, loss or damage to person or property, from any cause whatsoever, during our participation in this event. I hereby agree to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and their respective owners, managers, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, and agents, the NIA, its directors, chairpersons, agents and members, and the show hosts against any claims or expenses arising out of the use of the exhibition premises, including, but not limited to, liability resulting or connected with the transportation, placing, removal or display of items for exhibit or offered for sale, or the actual sale of any item(s) by myself or by any of my representatives as described above.



I also understand that failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement may result in my expulsion from the show premises and/or limitations placed on my future participation in NIA-sanctioned shows and activities.

***I understand that I am responsible for collecting and paying the appropriate Massachusetts taxes where applicable.***

**Sales Tables:** (All tables will have white tablecloths and skirting)

Dealer table 6' table (30" x 72") \$ 70.00  
Extra dealer table 6' table (30" x 72") # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 65.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Electricity (5 Amp plug-in)  @ \$ 35.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Amount Due:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print** Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Representative(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Table Helper(s) (Limit 2)** \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the above and completed the form, and, by my signature. I hereby accept the above requirements, liability agreement of this Agreement's terms and conditions set by the hosts, and the NIA Show Rules and Code of Ethics. I understand the refund cut-off date is May 27, 2025, and that cancellations past this time will be considered on an individual basis.

***I also understand that all table dealers, table helpers, and assistants must be NIA members at the time of the show.***

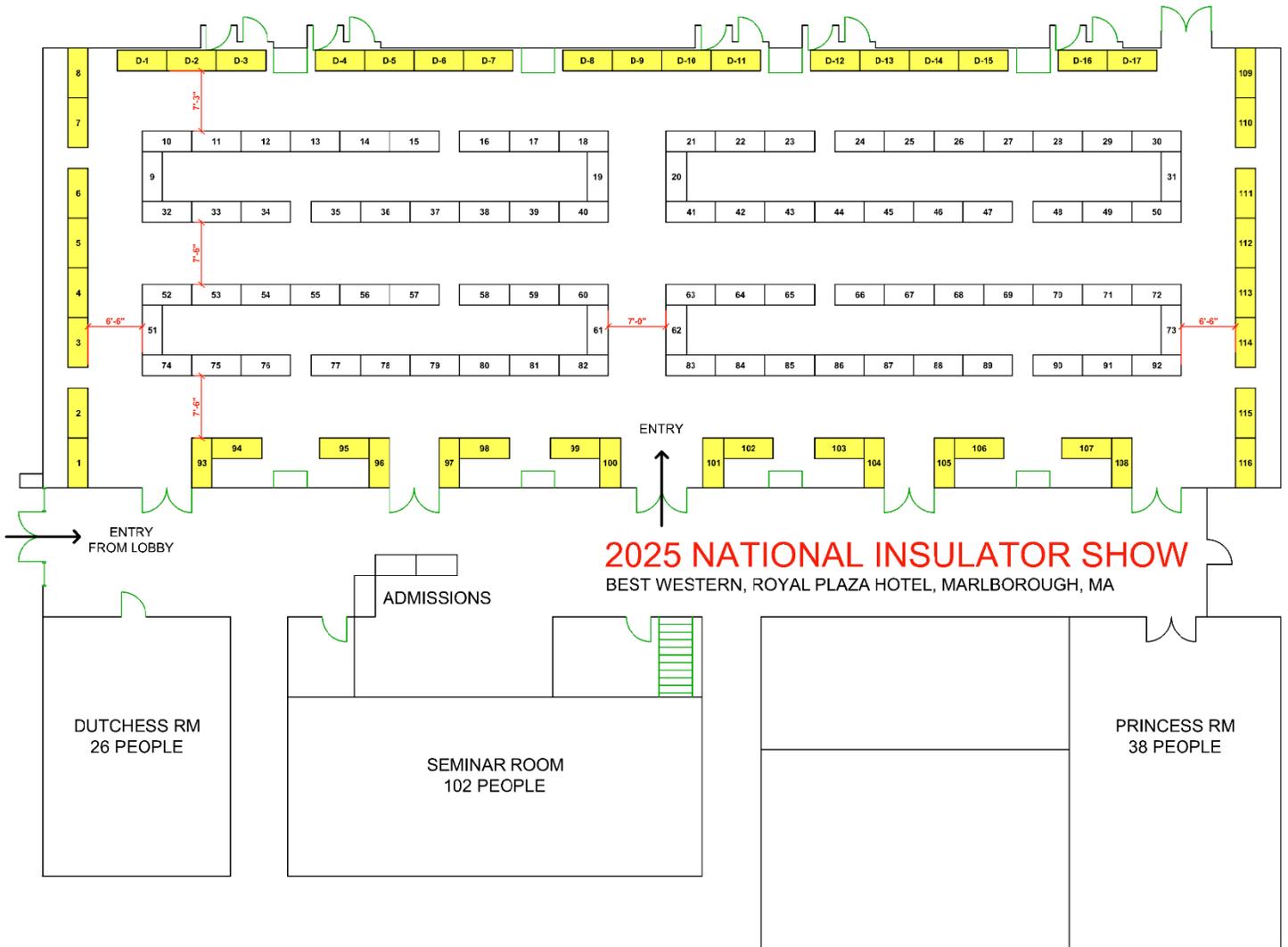
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this contract with the Reservation Summary Sheet**

# Floor Plan

Dario DiMare will assign sales table and display table locations.



# Display Table Reservation & Agreement

I and my representatives (i.e. participating family members, helpers, other dealers, etc.) agree to abide by the National Insulator Association (NIA) General Show floor rules, code of ethics, and any special rules, as specified in the information included in the show packet. I understand that neither the NIA, its officers and committee members, the show hosts, nor the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and their respective owners, managers, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, and agents will be responsible for the theft, loss, or damage to person or property, from any cause whatsoever, during our participation in this event. I hereby agree to indemnify, hold harmless and defend the Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and their respective owners, managers, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees and agents, the NIA, its directors, chairpersons, agents and members, and the show hosts against any claims or expenses arising out of the use of the exhibition premises, including, but not limited to, liability resulting or connected with the transportation, placing, removal or display of items for exhibit or offered for sale, or the actual sale of any item(s) by myself or by any of my representatives as described above.



I also understand that failure to comply with the terms of this Agreement may result in my expulsion from the show premises and/or limitations on my future participation in NIA-sanctioned shows and activities.

**Display Choice:**  Table     Space                      **Age Group:**  Adult     Junior (<18 years)

All tables will have white tablecloths and skirting.

Number of tables needed: \_\_\_\_\_ Special Request: \_\_\_\_\_ Electricity:  Y     N

Check the category for your display:

## Competitive Categories:

- Threadless**
- Specialty** (one company, one style, patents, errors, etc.)
- Foreign** (glass, porcelain, or any combination)
- Pole Line Hardware & Equipment** (must include some use of insulators and show the connection between insulators and the other items exhibited)
- Go-Withs** (must include some use of insulators and show the connection between insulators and the other items exhibited)
- General** (exhibit of mixed insulators which doesn't fit any other category)
- Threaded Glass**
- Color** (glass, porcelain, or any combination)
- Threaded Porcelain**
- Lightning Rod Equipment** (insulators, balls, vanes, etc.)

Or:

- Non-Competitive** (insulators and/or related display items)

I have read the above and completed the form, and, by my signature, I hereby accept the above requirements, liability agreement of this Agreement's terms and conditions set by the hosts, and the NIA Show Rules and Code of Ethics. I understand the cut-off date is May 27, 2025.

***I also understand that all exhibitors, helpers, and assistants must be NIA members at the time of the show.***

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this contract with the Reservation Summary Sheet**

# Thursday Bus Trip to Boston – June 26, 2025

A bus will be going from the hotel to the New England Aquarium in Boston. From there, you will have a variety of touring options. The schedule is:

- 8:00 am – Meet in the hotel lobby
- 8:15 am – Leave the hotel
- 9:45 am – Arrive at the New England Aquarium
- 10:00 am – 3:00 pm – Your choice of activity (five hours)
- 3:00 pm – Be back on the bus and ready to leave
- 4:15 pm – Estimated return to the hotel



**Whale Watch Cruise:** [www.cityexperiences.com/boston/city-cruises/whale-watch/](http://www.cityexperiences.com/boston/city-cruises/whale-watch/) Set sail with us for the whale watch experience of a lifetime. Our destination: Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary, a rich feeding ground for whales, dolphins, sea birds, and other marine creatures. Stellwagen is home to many species of large whales, including humpbacks, finbacks, and minkes. New England Aquarium naturalists will share knowledge, answer your questions, and explain the fascinating behaviors of these truly magnificent mammals. Sightings guaranteed and scenic views!

**New England Aquarium:** [www.neaq.org](http://www.neaq.org) The New England Aquarium is a renowned public aquarium that opened in 1969 and attracts over 1.3 million visitors annually. It features several key exhibits, including the Giant Ocean Tank, a massive cylindrical habitat that simulates a Caribbean coral reef and houses sea turtles, sharks, and various fish species. Other popular exhibits include the Penguin Exhibit, the Marine Mammal Center with Northern fur seals and California sea lions, and the Edge of the Sea Tidepool Touch Tank, where visitors can interact with tidepool creatures. The Aquarium also includes an IMAX theater.

**Old Town Trolley Tour:** ([www.trolleytours.com/boston](http://www.trolleytours.com/boston)) A SHOW HOST FAVORITE.

**Here are a few other options:** Walking tours: The Old State House, Boston Tea Party Ships and Museum, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Paul Revere House, and Christopher Columbus Waterfront Park are within 1 mile of the aquarium. The Freedom Trail (2.5 miles long) is only 10 minutes away.

Boston Duck Tours: [www.bostonducktours.com](http://www.bostonducktours.com) (80 minutes) leaves from the aquarium

Most historical places in Boston can be reached via subway. [www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com). The Blue Line subway station is 100 yards from the aquarium and connects with all other lines. \$11.00 for the day or \$2.40 one way with free transfers inside the station. Once you exit the station, you have to pay to get back on.

**Please return to the New England Aquarium by 3:00 p.m., as the bus will return to the hotel then!**

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## Activities (includes bus fare):

- Whale Watch Cruise (four hours) # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$120.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - New England Aquarium (self-guided, est. two or three hours) # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 80.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Bus only (five hours) # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 45.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total Amount Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return the bottom of this page with the Reservation Summary Sheet**

# Things to do while in New England

## **Trombetta's Farm, 5.7 miles**

655 Farm Rd #2763, Marlborough, MA 01752 - (508) 485-6429

[www.trobettasfarm.com](http://www.trobettasfarm.com)

40 flavors of homemade Ice cream, and more. Try your luck on the indoor mini-golf.

## **Wayside Country Store, 7.2 miles**

1015 Boston Post Rd E #1, Marlborough, MA 01752 - (508) 481-3458

[www.waysidecountrystore.com](http://www.waysidecountrystore.com)

New England-made foods, crafts, and souvenirs. Local Maple Syrup, store-made candy.

## **Butternut Farm Golf Course, 13 miles**

115 Wheeler Rd, Stow, MA 01775 - (978) 897-3400

[www.butternutfarm.com](http://www.butternutfarm.com)

Looking for a bigger challenge? Bring your clubs and head to this beautiful 18-hole public golf course. Known for its impeccable, pristine condition and having the longest hole in the country without a sand trap.

## **USS Constitution, 37 miles**

1 Constitution Road, Charlestown, MA 02129

[www.navy.mil/USS-CONSTITUTION/](http://www.navy.mil/USS-CONSTITUTION/)

The world's oldest commissioned warship afloat and America's ship of state, open for public visitation, free of charge. (See website for parking instructions)

## **Boston Freedom Trail, 35 miles**

Freedom Trail, Boston, MA 02108

[www.thefreedomtrail.org](http://www.thefreedomtrail.org)

See the best of historical Boston on the Freedom Trail. Sites include Boston Common, MA Statehouse, Park Street Church, Granary Burying Grounds, King's Chapel, Old Corner Book Store, Old South Meeting House, Old State House, Boston Massacre Site, Faneuil Hall, Paul Revere House, Old North Church, USS Constitution, Bunker Hill Monument. Plan your drive, walk, or guided tour through the website. It is very helpful and even suggests parking.

## **Old Sturbridge Village, 37 miles**

1 Old Sturbridge Village Rd, Sturbridge, MA 01566 - 800-733-1830

[www.osv.org](http://www.osv.org)

Re-creation of an 1830s settlement with costumed staff, rides & activities for family edutainment.

## **Historic Salem Walking Tour, 54 miles**

Outside on the 3 staircases, 32 Derby Square, Salem, MA 01970 - (781) 608-6986

[www.witchcitywalkingtours.com](http://www.witchcitywalkingtours.com)

Take a two-hour walking tour to see the sites of this historic and haunted town, including the Old Town Hall, Bewitched statue, Witch Trials Memorial, and historic houses and mansions.

## **Hammond Castle Museum, 67 Miles**

80 Hesperus Ave, Gloucester, MA 01930 - (978)283-2080

[www.hammondcastle.org](http://www.hammondcastle.org)

A true European castle on the New England shoreline. Hammond Castle was built in the late 1920s by scientist, inventor, and art connoisseur of the highest order, John Hays Hammond, Jr. (1888-1965).

## **Battleship Cove, 67 Miles**

5 Water Street, Fall River, MA 02720 - (508) 678-1100

[www.battleshipcove.org](http://www.battleshipcove.org)

Explore WWII history aboard the USS Massachusetts Battleship. Also, on site to PT Boats, Kingfish WWII Submarine, and Naval Destroyer.

## **Sandwich Glass Museum, 81 miles**

129 Main St, Sandwich, MA 02563 - (508) 888-0251

[www.sandwichglassmuseum.org](http://www.sandwichglassmuseum.org)

Well worth the drive! Walk through the history of 19th-century glassmaking. There are rare bottles, lamps, insulators, LRIs, and more to see. Also, there is a live glass blowing and press mold demonstration and a great gift shop.

# Dario DiMare Insulator Collection Visit

We are excited that Dario is welcoming collectors to see his insulators! He has a world-class North American CD collection, with many one-of-a-kind CDs as well as other rare and colorful pieces. The entire collection is on display. Four large (6' x 3') cabinets are filled with threaded CDs. There are other goodies here and there, like early non-pintype insulators, signs, etc. You don't want to miss this display! And by the way there are also four cabinets filled with THREADLESS insulators which Dario just started to collect.

We are scheduling time slots for groups to prevent the insulator room from overflowing. His house is about 5 minutes away. A map will be provided.

<b>DARIO DIMARE INSULATOR COLLECTION VISIT</b>							
<b>PLACE AT LEAST 4 NUMBERS IN THE WHITE BOXES TO INDICATE YOUR PREFERENCE AS TO WHEN YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE COLLECTION (1 IS FIRST CHOICE, ETC)</b>							
		7:00 - 9:00	9:00 - 11:00	12:00 - 2:00	3:00 - 5:00	7:00 - 9:00	???
<b>TUESDAY JUNE 26</b>			<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	
<b>WEDNESDAY JUNE 27</b>			<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	
<b>THURSDAY JUNE 28</b>	<b>WHALE WATCH &amp; BOSTON TOUR</b>						
			<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>L</b>	
<b>FRIDAY JUNE 29</b>	<b>SHOW &amp; NIA MEETING</b>					<b>M</b>	
	<b>SHOW &amp; NIA MEETING</b>						
<b>SATURDAY JUNE 30</b>	<b>SHOW &amp; BANQUET</b>						
	<b>SHOW &amp; BANQUET</b>						
<b>SUNDAY JULY 1</b>	<b>SHOW &amp; TEAR DOWN</b>					<b>N</b>	
	<b>SHOW &amp; TEAR DOWN</b>						
<b>MONDAY JULY 2</b>			<b>O</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>R</b>	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form with the Reservation Summary Sheet**

# Advertising Contract for Show Directory

Promote your club, promote your show, and promote yourself! Let other collectors know who you are and what you are looking for, selling, or representing!

I hereby authorize the insertion of the following advertisement in the 2025 NIA National Show Directory and agree to pay the total for the advertisement I have chosen.



## Advertising Options:

1/8 Page Ad (Business Card).....	# _____	@ \$10.00 = \$ _____
1/4 Page Ad.....	# _____	@ \$20.00 = \$ _____
1/2 Page Ad.....	# _____	@ \$35.00 = \$ _____
Full Page Ad.....	# _____	@ \$60.00 = \$ _____
		<b>Total Due: \$ _____</b>

Advertisement Copy Due by May 10th, 2025

Email the advertisement to bill@insulators.info or mail it to be scanned.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form with the Reservation Summary Sheet**

## Box Lunch

The hotel restaurant is closed for lunch. There are lots of food places about 0.75 miles away (0.25 miles if you walk). If there is enough interest, we will have box lunches brought in. Lunches have a sandwich, chips, fruit, and soda/water. If you are interested, select the number of each type of sandwich and the days:

	Friday	Saturday	
Ham & Swiss	# _____	# _____	@ \$25.00/meal = \$ _____
Roast Beef	# _____	# _____	@ \$25.00/meal = \$ _____
Turkey	# _____	# _____	@ \$25.00/meal = \$ _____
			<b>Total Due: \$ _____</b>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form with the Reservation Summary Sheet**

# Reservation Summary Sheet

Sales Table Reservation ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Display Table Request .....  Check if displaying ..... \$ No Cost  
Thursday Tour ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Advertising for Show Directory..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Box Lunch ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Awards Banquet meal:**

Grilled Chicken with a choice of sauces # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$52.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
New England Scrod (white fish) # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$52.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Vegetable Lasagna # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Children (10 and under) # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Be sure to sign and include the Sales and Display Agreements, Thursday Tour, and Advertising Contract.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NIA #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NIA**

Mail forms and checks to:  
Jill Meier  
103 Canterbury Ct.  
Carlisle, MA 01741



**Once again, Thank You for your support of the 2025 National**

These events benefit our hobby, but they can only be successful with your participation and support. Encourage your fellow collectors to join us in Marlborough! Thanks!

# Donations

To help defray the costs of the National Convention, we will be giving away donated items at various times throughout the show. Please consider donating insulators, go-with items, etc., to help with our fund-raising efforts.

Please fill out this form and either include it with your Reservation Summary or mail/email it to:

Jill Meier  
103 Canterbury Ct  
Carlisle, MA 01741  
jill@insulators.info

Item(s) to be donated:

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Your support is greatly appreciated!**

**Please return this form with the Reservation Summary Sheet**

**Or contact one of the show hosts!**

# Insulator Club Awards Information

If your Insulator Club would like to present an award at the Awards Banquet, please complete the form below and mail/email the form to:

Jill Meier  
103 Canterbury Ct.  
Carlisle, MA 01741  
781-999-3049  
jill@insulators.info



Presenter's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club/Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Award presentation time needed: \_\_\_\_\_ minutes

Type of Award:  Ribbon  Plaque  Trophy  Certificate  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Award Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form with the Reservation Summary Sheet**



# GENERAL RULES OF CONDUCT AT NIA SPONSORED SHOWS

## [www.nia.org/handbook](http://www.nia.org/handbook)

The NIA Board of Directors has adopted the following rules to ensure that NIA sponsored insulator shows are enjoyable for collectors, dealers, and the general public. They are to be prominently publicized to all show participants (dealers and exhibitors), and attendees.

1. All participants shall abide by the NIA Code of Ethics. In particular:

(a) Participants shall not knowingly misrepresent the condition, rarity, or value of insulators or related items they offer for sale or trade.

(b) Imitation and Altered insulators or related items may only be brought onto the show premises if they are PERMANENTLY MARKED or embossed so as to indicate their lack of authenticity. While the NIA Code of Ethics requires Imitation and Altered Insulators to be plainly marked "reproduction" and "fake" respectively, it does not require Questionable Insulators (those which may not be Original Insulators), to be permanently marked. The goal of this rule is to cause a prospective purchaser to easily recognize that an item is a reproduction or fake, or to cause them to question its authenticity. Insulators of questionable authenticity should be represented with candor. If not, a show organizer can require a participant to remove the item from a display or sales table. The decision of the show host shall be final. NIA Board Members attending an NIA sponsored show will provide active assistance, if requested by a show organizer, in resolving violations of the NIA Rules.

(c) All restored and/or repaired items on sales tables must be clearly labeled as such.

2. All show participants and the attending public shall abide by any site specific show rules set by the show organizer/host including applicable State laws, local ordinances or restrictions imposed by the owner of the facility, etc.

3. Positively no public attendance during show setup hours.

4. "Aisle dealing" by the attending public is discouraged.

5. It will not be permissible for dealers to "work the aisles" in any fashion which preempts the opportunities of fellow dealers.

6. Dealer side shows (spotlights, excessive "cow bell ringing," etc.) shall not be carried to the point of being abusive to fellow dealers and the general public.

7. Dealers will not sublet portions of their reserved tables without first consulting with the show host and obtaining permission.

8. Participants shall keep aisles in front of tables free of boxes and clutter.

9. Participants are encouraged to cover their unattended tables.

10. Dealers should keep their sales tables intact until the end of the published show hours. There will be exceptions made for those driving long distances or needing to make other travel connections, but advance arrangements should be made with the show organizer(s) when reserving the table. The show organizer(s) reserves the right to locate such tables on the outer aisles or near exits to avoid disruption of the rest of the show with any early departures. The show organizer(s) may announce blanket authority for early takedown at such time as public attendance appears to have essentially ceased.

11. Participants will be responsible for any damage they do to the facilities with their setup practices (i.e. no signs or other items taped or tacked to walls or furnishings).

12. The show organizer(s) will make every effort to provide good security but will not be responsible for any loss of participant property due to theft or breakage. Each dealer and exhibitor is asked to help with security by watching after his own items and keeping an eye on adjacent tables in situations of obvious risk.

13. At the NIA National Show only, exhibitors, contracted sales table dealers, and all table helpers and assistants must be NIA members.

14. The reservation of a table at an NIA sponsored show constitutes the acceptance of these rules and agreement to comply with them.

## DEFINITIONS and TERMINOLOGY

### INSULATOR RELATED DEFINITIONS

The term "insulator" or "insulators" appearing throughout this handbook refers specifically to any device used to prevent the passage, leakage, or undesired flow of electricity. It does not refer to devices used to prevent the transfer of thermal or mechanical energy.

An "Original Insulator" is defined as any device manufactured at any time by any industrial, commercial, or private interest with the specific intended purpose of being commercially or privately utilized to prevent the passage, leakage, or undesired flow of electricity.

A "Special Purpose Original Insulator" is defined as any device manufactured at any time by any industrial, commercial, or private interest, with existing regular production equipment, specifically made to be collectible as a souvenir or memento, or to enhance the marketing or sales of original insulators.

A "Salesman Sample" is a specific type of special purpose original insulator uniquely defined as a model of an insulator known to have been manufactured by an insulator company for salesmen to use as a promotional gift or product example.

An "Imitation Insulator" is defined as any device resembling an original insulator, or special purpose original insulator that is not actually an original insulator or special purpose original insulator but could be represented as such. This definition may appear in other terms, including but not limited to: reproduction insulators, insulator copies, insulator replicas, or counterfeit insulators.

**RULE:** All imitation insulators must be permanently marked "REPRODUCTION" with the exceptions noted below in Commemorative and Miniature Insulator definitions.

A “Commemorative” or “Private Issue Commemorative” is a specific type of Imitation Insulator that is uniquely defined as any device manufactured to resemble an insulator with specific embossing declaring the commemorated person, place, device, event, organization, or insulator design.

A “Miniature Insulator” is an Imitation Insulator and is uniquely defined as any device resembling an insulator known to have been manufactured by a private individual or organization for the purpose of resale or gifting as a promotion or commemorative.

RULE: All Miniature Insulators must be permanently marked “REPRODUCTION” and the calendar year of production. If the physical size of the item renders such markings impractical the calendar year marking will suffice.

A “Questionable Insulator” is defined as any device purporting to be an original insulator or original special purpose insulator whose provenance is uncertain or cannot be validated or verified. The NIA does not require questionable insulators to be permanently marked. Nor does the NIA require any disclosure by the owner at the time of sale or trade.

An “Altered Insulator” is any original insulator, commemorative or salesman sample that has been intentionally modified. Often, this is to make it appear to be worth more than it would otherwise have been worth for the specific purpose of deceiving the buyer and/or profiting the owner.

RULE: All Altered Insulators must be permanently marked “FAKE.”

A “Restored insulator” is any original insulator, commemorative or salesman sample that has been intentionally modified to make it more resemble its original factory appearance. Restored items present a unique dilemma. In the wrong hands restored items can be misrepresented the way that altered items can. Restored insulators are not required to be permanently marked, as is the case with imitation altered insulators. 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. Restored insulators are not required to be permanently marked “RESTORED”.

RULE: The NIA requires any repair to an insulator be disclosed to a potential buyer.

## TERMINOLOGY

“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).

“NIA Approved” is a term reserved for use by the Board of Directors. Any member may apply for permission to use the term “NIA Approved” in conjunction with the production and distribution of any hobby related material.

RULE: Any use of the NIA name, graphics, logo, or proprietary material in any form by any entity for personal or commercial purposes (including endorsements), must be approved in writing by the NIA Board of Directors in advance of its use. Approval for commercial use of all NIA proprietary, physical and intellectual property shall include an appropriate written agreement for compensation to the NIA for such use.

“Manufactured in Accordance with NIA Guidelines” is a term reserved by the Board of Directors for the production and distribution of hobby related material specifically including Imitation Insulators. Use of this term means that those engaged in the production and distribution of the Imitation insulator or hobby related material have agreed to abide by all NIA guidelines.

RULE: NIA members who intend to engage in the production and or distribution of any hobby related material, especially Imitation Insulators, shall agree to apply in writing for NIA endorsement prior to commencing any phase of production and wait for the NIA’s written response before commencing production.

“Permanently Marked” An item is considered “Permanently Marked” when it bears an identifying alpha-numeric graphic that cannot be removed without obviously disfiguring or conspicuously damaging the item. Ideally such a mark will result from lost material (such as engraving or etching) rather than added material (such as embossing.) 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.

“Hobby Related Material” as used in the Code of Ethics is a term designed to give the NIA Board of Directors the broadest oversight when investigating and dealing with any issue suspected or found by the Board of Directors to be contrary to the best interests of the hobby.

“Related Items” as used in the Show Standards Section include virtually all items associated with power or communications equipment, plus items such as lightning rod equipment, pole nails, magazines, books, etc.

## NIA CODE OF ETHICS

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.

## **NIA EXHIBIT AND JUDGING RULES**

One of the primary reasons for exhibiting is to promote the insulator "story" to the general public, by stressing education, history and information. One of the NIA's primary goals is to increase interest in insulator collecting thus attracting new collectors, which can be accomplished through quality displays. The NIA Board of Directors as a general guide for show hosts has adopted the following Exhibit and Judging Rules. They are meant to encourage more collectors to display, improve the quality of exhibits, and to provide some measure of uniformity and fairness in judging. These rules are in full effect for the NIA National and Regional shows. For NIA sanctioned local shows, adjustments may be made at the host's discretion to fit certain circumstances.

Exhibitors are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the exhibit scoring sheet (see Addendum). The judging of exhibits will be accomplished using the NIA's standard 100- point system. The average of all judges for any given category will be the final score. Points are scored for all of the following aspects included in an exhibit or display: Showmanship (Eye-catching, Public appeal, Good use of go-withs, Display props, Lighting, Condition, Category adherence); Education (History, Information, Explanation, Good use of titles, Labels, Handouts, Exhibitor biography); Rarity; Variety; and Originality (Independent and creative thought, Freshness of idea, New or unusual arrangement.)

### **1. Exhibit Categories**

- a.) Displays or exhibits may be either a non-competitive entry or a competitive entry.
- b.) The Non-Competitive Entry category is open to exhibits of insulators and/or related items displayed by individuals, clubs, groups, museums, or displays shared by multiple owners who choose to not have their exhibit/display judged.
- c.) A Competitive Entry (Junior and Adult) exhibit will comprise one of the following 10 categories:
  - 1) Threadless (Dr. Fredrick L. Griffin Memorial Award)
  - 2) Threaded Glass
  - 3) Threaded Porcelain (Marilyn Albers Memorial Award)
  - 4) Specialty (i.e. one company, one style, patents, errors, etc.)
  - 5) General (exhibits of mixed insulators, the total theme of which does not accurately fit any other single category listing.)
  - 6) Color (glass, porcelain or any combination)
  - 7) Foreign (glass, porcelain or any combination)
  - 8) Lightning Rod Equipment (insulators, balls, vanes, etc.)
  - 9) Pole Line Hardware and Equipment (insulator mounting pins, brackets, pole and cross-arm construction materials, lineman tools, tie wires, pole steps, and other hardware used in conjunction with insulators and line construction. The exhibit must include some use of insulators and must clearly identify the connection between insulators and those items being displayed.)

10) Go-withs (advertising pieces, post cards, insulator shipping boxes, insulators on postage stamps, business cards of collectors, metal signs or non-insulator products made by insulator manufacturing companies. The exhibit must include some use of insulators and must clearly identify the connection between insulators and those items being displayed.)

## 2. Exhibitor Rules:

- a. At the NIA National Show and Convention only, exhibitors must be NIA members.
- b. NIA Junior members will enter their exhibit in one of the standard NIA exhibit categories.
- c. A Junior member is defined as under the age of 18. Junior members must not attain their 18th birthday during the show they are exhibiting in.
- d. The exhibitor must determine and declare the competitive category of their exhibit/display at the time of reserving exhibit space.
- e. Two or more people or a club may collaborate on a competitive exhibit/display. Only one award will be presented to collaborative exhibits/displays. In instances where the collaboration includes both "Junior" and "Adult" members the exhibit/display will be judged as an Adult entry.
- f. Exhibitors will be permitted to include limited numbers of non-owned items in their display. Ownership of borrowed pieces must be acknowledged in the display.
- g. Imitation or altered insulators and/or related items may be used in exhibits but must be clearly identified as such in the exhibit. Restored items are acceptable in exhibits and need not be identified as such.
- h. Exhibits or portions thereof may not be marked "for sale," or their value indicated in any way.
- i. Exhibitors are requested to display the awards(s) on their exhibit until it is taken down and should wear any special name cards or badges provided by the show host.
- j. Exhibits should not be dismantled until the end of the show unless prior arrangements are made with the show hosts.

## 3. Show Organizer(s) Exhibit/Display Rules:

- a. Exhibit space at all shows shall be free and available on a first-come basis. Exhibitors may be expected to bring their own fixtures, extension cords, etc.
- b. At the NIA National and Regional shows, if exhibit space reserved for insulators and/or related items should still be available 60 days or less from the date of the show, the show organizer may permit other non-competitive exhibits of suitable antique/collectible items, subject to the approval of the NIA Board of Directors.

## 4. Awards and Presentations

- a. The NIA will provide trophies, plaques or awards for Junior and Adult 1st place winners of the various categories.
- b. The show organizer(s) will provide ribbons or some type of award for all exhibitors as recognition for exhibiting.
- c. The NIA Board of Directors has the authority to honor esteemed contributors to the hobby and the NIA, by naming awards after such individuals. As such, the "Dr. Fredrick L. Griffin Memorial Award" (recipient selected by the show judging panel), is in recognition of the first NIA President, and will be given for the most outstanding threadless exhibit, in lieu of a standard first place award.
- d. The NIA will present a "NIA Best of Show Award" at National and Regional Shows. The award will be presented to the exhibitor achieving the highest total cumulative score from the judges. The National Show award shall be presented as the "Steve Blair Memorial Best of Show Award".
- e. The NIA, at the National Show, may present four special awards:

1. The "Milholland Educational Award" (recipient selected by the show judging panel). This award is in recognition of Marion and Evelyn Milholland for their tireless work over many years to research and publish information on glass insulators, all of which contributed immeasurably to the growth and enjoyment of the hobby. The award is given for the one exhibit that most effectively achieves an educational theme. Insulators, props and historical explanations must be combined with good showmanship to capture the attention of all collectors and the viewing public. This award may be any exhibit regardless of the category entered. The award is determined and selected as that exhibit receiving the highest cumulative score of all the judges scoring in the showmanship and education portions of the score sheet.

2. The "Outstanding Service Award" may be presented to an NIA member who has performed outstanding service for the NIA and contributed substantially to the insulator hobby. The Awards and Recognition Committee receives nominations from the membership and delivers the nominations to the NIA President. The NIA President prepares, distributes and tabulates ballots for this award.

Individual members may not nominate themselves nor their spouses. Individuals receiving the Outstanding Service Award are not eligible to receive that award again for five (5) years.

For a current Board Member, Advisor, Committee Member, Employee or Volunteer appointed by the Board to be eligible for Outstanding Service Award consideration, that individual must have served six (6) complete and consecutive years in one or more of the following capacities: Board Member, Advisor, Committee Member, Employee and/or Volunteer appointed by the Board.

3. A "NIA Lifetime Membership" may be presented to any NIA member for cumulative meritorious service to the NIA or the insulator- collecting hobby. The Awards and Recognition Committee receives nominations from the membership and delivers the nominations to the NIA President. The NIA President prepares, distributes and tabulates ballots for this award. Individual members may not nominate themselves nor their spouses for this award.

For a current Board Member, Advisor, Committee Member, Employee or Volunteer appointed by the Board of Directors to be eligible for NIA Lifetime Membership consideration, that individual must have served six (6) complete and consecutive years in one or more of the following capacities: Board Member, Advisor, Committee Member, Employee and/or Volunteer appointed by the Board.

4. The NIA Board of Directors has the authority to honor esteemed contributors to the hobby and the NIA by inducting such individuals into the NIA "Hall of Fame."

The purpose of the NIA Hall of Fame is to recognize and preserve the historical significance of the contributions of those who have significantly advanced the invention, manufacture, application and collection of insulators upon which the hobby and the NIA is founded.

Candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame may be any past or present member of the NIA as well as other individuals who have significantly advanced the invention, manufacture, application and collection of insulators upon which the hobby is founded.

Candidates can be nominated by affiliated clubs, individual NIA members, or family members related to the candidate. Current members of the NIA Board of Directors may nominate candidates for induction into the Hall of Fame. Individual members may not nominate themselves or their spouses.

The NIA Awards and Recognitions Committee will receive the submitted written applications and supporting documentation for the proposed candidate. Induction into the Hall of Fame shall be by recommendation from the Awards and Recognitions Committee. Induction into the Hall of Fame will require a vote for approval by two-thirds (6) of the members of the Board of Directors.

The numbers of inductees shall be limited to no more than three (3) members per year.

Inductees to the Hall of Fame will be announced at the annual NIA National Show Awards Banquet. Photographs and biographies of the inductees will be published in the Drip Points magazine, Crown Jewels of the Wire magazine, and on the "Hall of Fame" page of the NIA web site. The Association Historian will be responsible for preserving the inductee's biographical information in the NIA archives.

f) The presentation of all NIA category awards and individual club awards should be made on the show floor immediately after the judging and tabulation of scores but at the discretion of the show organizers in coordination with the NIA.

g) The top NIA awards (Best of Show Award, Milholland Educational Award, Outstanding Service Award, Hall of Fame Award, and Lifetime Membership Award) will be presented at the awards banquet. In addition, presentations to show organizer(s), People's Choice award, President's Special Award(s) and other miscellaneous awards will be presented during the banquet. Additionally, if the category and club awards were presented on the show floor, those winners of category and club awards would also be announced and recognized during the awards banquet.

## 5. Judging Rules

a. Judges and exhibitors should remember that displays are for the general public as well as for other members of the hobby, so it is desirable to be creative and original, and avoid showing the same exhibit several times without substantial modification. Repetitive showings of the same exhibit should result in a reduced score.

b. An exhibit/display must exceed a threshold numerical judging score in order to qualify for the "best of category" award. An Adult exhibitor must achieve a minimum score of 65 and a Junior exhibitor must achieve a minimum score of 50. Single exhibitors in any category must achieve the minimum score for their exhibit in order to receive an award.

c. A tally sheet will be furnished to exhibitors after the judging, showing how the judges rated each exhibit as compared with other entrants in the same category. This will show exhibitors where improvement is needed. The judges will not be identified on these tally sheets.

d. Judging decisions will be final. Ties will be re-judged.

e. There will be a minimum of three (3) judges for each category, and a given person may judge more than one category, if qualified. A total of five (5) judges is recommended. All judges at a National Show should have previous judging experience. The majority of judges at a Regional Show should have previous judging experience. At a National Show the judging panel should include at least one judge from each of the three NIA regions.

f. A person may not judge any category in which that person or a family member has an entry.

g. The Awards & Recognition Committee Chairperson (or in his/her absence an Awards & Recognition Committee Member) will act as the Judging Chairperson at the NIA National Convention. The

The judging Chairperson, with the cooperation of the Show Organizer(s), will determine who will be in attendance at the show, select the judges, supervise them, and tally the score sheets. The Judging Chairperson at the NIA National Convention is not allowed to enter a competitive exhibit.

h. Judges will be furnished standardized printed scoring sheets by the Judging Chairperson, and

1. Should consider each grading factor separately without regard to other factors, thus making a conscious effort to avoid a "halo" effect, or a tendency to give an exhibit high scores in "Showmanship" and/or "Education" because it is outstanding in "Rarity;" and

2. In an effort to make scoring meaningful, judges should consider starting their scoring with a presumptive number of points. For example, start in the middle of the point range and then mentally adjust their ratings downward or upward as appropriate.

i. Judging will be accomplished using the NIA's standard 100-point system. The average of all judges for any given category will be the final score. The standard NIA 100-point system is as follows:

### NIA DISPLAY JUDGING RULES

40 points – Showmanship		Points	
Presentation		10	Lighting, arrangement, eye catching
Originality		10	Uniqueness of display-fresh, creative
Public appeal		10	Attractiveness to new/non-collectors
Use of props & go-withs		5	Supporting materials to assist display
Exhibitor biography & explanation		5	Why I collect & significance of the display
35 points – Education			
History		10	When/who - research, timeline, people/company info
Information		10	What/how/why display items were used, methods
Good use of titles & labels		10	What are we looking at? Which item is rare/unusual?
Handouts		5	Long term education
25 points – Content – (Must be within display context)			
Display content		25	Rarity, variety, condition, &/or merit within category
Judge's Optional Bonus		+5	Awarded for exceptional merit in 1 above category

This has 10 divisions of 100 points +5 optional bonus points = 105 possible points

Adult displays minimum 65 points to win a category (or at discretion of A&R Chair)

Junior displays minimum 50 points to win a category (or at discretion of A&R Chair)