

American Dahlia Society
Conference Call Minutes
February 8, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm EDT by President Don Dramstad.

Present

Those on the call were: Don Dramstad, Brad Freeman, Terry Schroeder, Mac Boyer, Harry Rissetto, Ron Miner, Charles Miehm, Wayne Shantz, Eleanor Shantz, Bob Schroeder, Alan Fisher, Art Haskins, Rosemary Freeman, Lois Ann Helgeson, Brent Grant, Jerry Landerholm, Linda Holmes-Cook, Martin Kral, Ken Jensen, Mark Oldenkamp, Lou Paradise.

Remembrance

Don Dramstad had a moment of silence for those who have passed. Of course, Steve Nowotarski's passing is a huge loss to the ADS as well as the Mid Island Dahlia Society. In addition, Ed Bonci reported the following persons passed away recently: Doris Aldridge and Herb Abromowitz from the Mid Island Dahlia Society and Larry Carlson, Connecticut Dahlia Society.

Minutes

Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook moved and Lois Ann Helgeson seconded to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2014 conference call with the following corrections: Under Remembrances, change George Grain to George Graham and add Louis LaPlant from Toledo, Ohio. Under Treasurer Report, revise the sentence about the 2015 National Show to read, "Factoring in the additional amount sent to the Mid Island Dahlia Society for the Centennial Show, the ADS Funds are nearly equal this year to last." Include Steve Nowotarski's Garden Dahlia report. **Motion carried.**

OFFICERS REPORTS

Treasurer

Mac Boyer reported there is a total in all accounts of \$182,762.68. There is \$78,830.18 in the Ameriprise account, of which \$69,820 is restricted. There is \$49,279.72 in the Vanguard account, \$54,374.75 in the Lake City account and \$278.03 in PayPal. The annual tax forms are filed with the IRS and New York state. At this time in 2013, there was \$57,682.08. Factoring in the additional amount sent to the Mid Island Dahlia Society for the Centennial Show, the ADS funds are nearly equal this year to last. **Ron Miner moved and Charles Miehm seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit.**

There was discussion about insurance costs. Mac Boyer sent an email to the Executive Committee recommending a reduction of the premium to all societies by \$5. All were in favor, so he sent the information to Judy. He expects to still have a contingency fund for the insurance fund; it is currently at 2,339.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Mid Atlantic (Eastern States)

Charles Miehm reports they are finalizing dates of their shows, and may end up with two shows on the same date.

North Atlantic

Ed Bonci reports the NADC Spring meeting will be held on Sunday April 19 at The San Marino Restaurant in Waterbury, CT @ 12:00 PM. The Connecticut Dahlia Society will be running a judging seminar prior to their monthly meetings in Feb, Mar and April. In addition, Marge Schnerr has agreed to become judging chair for The Greenwich Dahlia Society, with the passing of Steve Nowotarski. She will also hold 3 judging seminars for GDS candidate judges during the months of Mar, Apr and May. The ADS Centennial Show's website has gone live and can be found at www.adscentennial.com and as a link on The ADS website.

Midwest Dahlia Conference

Randy Foith reports they are planning another really exiting year of dahlia growing and exhibiting. Last September Randy Foith was elected to continue as president along with the election of Rusty Ritchie of the Elkhart DS to Trustee. Dr. Hanu Pappu spoke briefly at the meeting on Dahlia Viruses and received a contribution for \$350,000 from the Chuey-Sheetz Foundation. The Spring Meeting and Plant Auction will be hosted by the Elkhart DS on June 6th. Proceeds will go to the Michigan DS, the 2015 host of the Midwest Show in Ann Arbor, Mi. The Elkhart DS will also again host a Judging Seminar at the Bonneyville TG on August 15th.

Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference

Wayne Shantz reported the Wild Rivers Dahlia Society will host the PNDC show in their second year on August 29 and 30, 2015. The PNDC applauds Bob Chibante and their members. Gold Beach offers some excellent attractions, including a 110 mile round trip boat ride up the Rogue River with much of the distance in a wilderness setting.

Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers

Brad Freeman reported there are several events for the Federation of NW Dahlia Growers coming up in February and March:

- Federation Board Meeting,
- Northwest Flower and Garden Show where Puget Sound Dahlia Association has a booth with educational materials
- Federation Spring Workshop where educational programs about growing dahlias are provided.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Classification

Lou Paradise reported John Spangenberg is a new member of the Classification Committee. Lou asked if the Board thought we should do a Composite Book for 2016. It has been five years, so it was decided that it should be done.

Finance

Harry Risetto reported \$3291.00 was received through the September contribution envelope. There was \$636 designated for special projects, \$730 for the Centennial Show and \$1925 for ADS costs of the Centennial Show.

Garden Dahlias

We need a replacement for Steve Nowotarski as Chair of the Garden Dahlia committee.

Image Library

Claudia Biggs reported she is currently busy with the New Introduction DVDs. She has sent out 19 deluxe and 14 regular. She is now waiting on the Fabulous Fifty and Photo Contest so she can get photos together for those.

Insurance

Judy Hines reported she is working on getting insurance renewed. She just received notice from company that they want one certificate per event except for regular monthly meetings; she received this too late for the Bulletin.

Judging Accreditation

Bob Schroeder reported the annual judging report, 2015 Judging Roster, has been completed and sent to Dave Hines. Along with completing the report, certificates and pins were sent to the appropriate Judging Chairs to be given to the new/advancing judges. This year we have forty-four individuals who have decided to enter the judging program as Candidates. We also have twenty-one members who advanced to the Accredited Judges level, and fourteen have achieved the top level of Senior Judge.

Membership

Alan Fisher reported he has processed approximately 75% of the final membership for 2014, to date. There are several societies for which he does not yet have initial membership submissions. Memberships have come in faster this year, but he is keeping up with the processing. Alan also provided a written report person is lost in a society.

National Exhibit

Art Haskins reported he has a bid from the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers for a show in 2020. **Art Haskins moved and Alan Fisher seconded to approve this bid. Motion passed.**

Policy

Ron Miner reported the updated policies are on the web site. If anyone sees any edits that need to be done, please let Ron know.

Photography Contest

Martin Kral reported the deadline for this year's Photo Contest is the end of November. He has received four submissions to date. There was a question about doing online

submission. Martin has checked it out and has some concerns about doing online submission, so he won't be doing it at this time.

Publicity/PR

Lois Ann Helgeson requested that as we get winners for our various competitions that someone send a copy to her on the background of the winner(s) and what it was for so she can put out a press release (PR). There are some PRs for 2015 that can be sent as soon as she receives the background material.

Research and Education

Brent Grant reported a report from Washington State University was sent to the ADS Bulletin for inclusion in the December Bulletin. The quaterfold on Growing Dahlias continues to find wide acceptance.

Seedling Bench Evaluation

Roger Walker reported the seedling bench evaluation results have been finalized and classification disparities reconciled with trial garden results. A final report has been submitted to the ADS Bulletin; individual seedling bench Lynn B. Dudley medal winners have been notified. Complete results will be published in the December ADS Bulletin.

Special Awards

Jerry Landerholm reported three ADS Gold Medals were awarded in 2014 to Lois Ann Helgeson, Martin Kral and Marilyn Walton. Congratulations to all three! Five ADS Silver Medals were presented to guests at the 2014 National Show. The recipients were Hans Auinger of Austria, Steve Cox of Australia, David Brown of England and Mrs. Maria Guadalupe Treviño de Castro and Professor José Mejía Muñoz, both of Mexico. Articles on all will be in the December Bulletin. Jerry stated his supply of silver and gold medals is low. The time for buying both silver and gold seems good so he is interested in restocking. Jerry recommended purchasing 20 silver and 10 gold medals. **Harry Risetto moved and Alan Fisher seconded to approve the purchase of silver and gold medals in the amounts recommended by Jerry Landerholm. The motion carried.**

Technology Resource

Don McAllister reported he is just starting to build the 2015 Big List.

Trial Garden

Ron Miner reported they received the majority of Trial Garden reports prior to the deadline of October 10. Ron was pleased that a new seedling grower, Kristine Albrecht, received 7 wins in 7 trial gardens. They were able to combine the SBE and TG classifications relatively easily this year and got the results to Lou before the end of October. Ron thanked the Trial Garden Directors for all their efforts that make this part of the ADS possible. Thanks to Marilyn, Mike, Jerry, Mac, Teresa, Gary, Buddy and Lorne! The Piper Creek Trial Garden successfully completed the second year of their probationary process. **Ron Miner moved and Alan Fisher seconded to approve Piper Creek's promotion to a fully qualified ADS Trial Garden for the 2015 season. Motion carried.** Congratulations Lorne and Ken!

Website

Linda Holmes-Cook reported Sharon has done a great job redesigning the home page for dahlia.org. They are in the process of getting trial garden and seedling bench evaluation results posted on the site as soon as they receive reports. The new members' only password will be in the March Bulletin and will be "mornstar". They still need photos for the originations for the online classification guide.

Steve Nowotarski asked if there was any way to tell how many hits each page on the website gets and if we can get some analytics. We can and have gotten Google Analytics and we can get information for specific pages.

ADS Representatives

Ken Jensen reported he spent some time early in the summer ensuring that members received the June Bulletin and getting a Bulletin out to members who didn't receive theirs.

Mark Oldenkamp reported he is just getting up to speed on the duties of the ADS Rep. He has rebuilt the email contact list and would like Ron Miner to send him the notes on the brainstorming notes from five to six years ago.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ADS 2015 Centennial Planning

Steve Nowotarski reported he anticipates the website for the ADS National Show will be active in the next couple of weeks. It will have information regarding tours, prices, show schedule, rules. If you are interested in sponsoring one of the honor table positions for \$100, send a check, made out to MIDS. Additional information will be included in the December Bulletin.

Harry reported there are three elements to the ADS portion of the National Show:

1. Symposium – He is looking at three speakers:
 - a. Hanu Pappu – Virus Project/Update
 - b. Horticulturist – Future of Plant Societies over the next 5 years
 - c. Future of Dahlias – Speaker from the dahlia world
2. Publication – Harry has completed up to year 2000 since 1965, reviewing developments in the dahlia world. He hopes to use the dahlia that is voted as the Best Dahlia over the last 50 years, on the cover. He is planning to have it be a year-by-year walking tour, from 1965 to 2014, through the dahlia world and ADS. He intends to include information on the winners of the various medals and the Stanley Johnson medal. He will also have various jottings he has gleaned from the Bulletins over the last 50 years to lighten things up a bit. He will also have pictures of dahlia notables and dahlias from the last 50 years, ADS developments and the Fab 50. Martin Kral and Harry have been working together to include foreign comments about what they feel is the best dahlia in their area and the most significant development over the last 50 years.
3. In honor of the ADS Centennial, he plans to post on the website, in searchable form, The Bulletin for the last 50 years. It has been digitized so will be put up so that people can continue to use it in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Nomination to Finance Committee

Don announced he has appointed Ron Miner to the Finance Committee, to replace Mark Oldenkamp who is now an ADS Representative Coordinator.

Bulletin

The primary focus for the Executive Board will be getting on track with The Bulletin. Don has appointed an Editorial Committee consisting of Deborah Dietz from San Francisco, Linda Holmes-Cook from Washington, Wanda Bowers from Philadelphia and Madison Varsalona from Georgia. The editorial committee will be under the mentorship of Harry Risetto. Their responsibility will be to get the Bulletin up and running how it should be. The Editorial Board will be able to assist with content and help with getting information in a good format. It is hoped the editorial committee will be up and running to work on the March Bulletin. Judy will be a member of the editorial committee to help us to understand what was being done and how we go about getting the Bulletin delivered timely. We all need to do what we can to figure out how to help Dave get the Bulletin out in a timely manner.

Virus Research Funding

Ron Miner provided information about the \$350,000.00 donation to the Virus Research Fund. The money is in place and at work. Two articles are in place for publication in the December Bulletin. Dr. Pappu has committed to providing regular updates on the practical implications of his research on fixing virus problems in our dahlia gardens. One of the Bulletin articles will be a brief overview of the presentation he made at the Annual Meeting in Tacoma. That presentation is available in full on the website as well. Ron stated that the information that he felt was most important is that Dr. Pappu now believes that not all dahlias have virus and virus resistance may be a characteristic that can be bred into dahlias, which is different than what was initially thought.

2015 Spring Planning Meeting

There wasn't much time left for discussion, but the Spring Planning meeting is scheduled for April 17 to 19 in Naples, FL, hosted by Ron and Barb Miner. Please make plans to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm EDT.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder, ADS Secretary