

American Dahlia Society  
Annual Meeting  
September 18, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm EDT by President Don Dramstad.

### **Present**

Board members present were: Don Dramstad, Ken Jensen, Terry Schroeder, Bob Schroeder, Alan Fisher, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Ron Miner, Ed Bonci, Mark Oldenkamp, Jerry Landerholm, Harry Risetto, Lou Paradise, Brent Grant, Martin Kral, and Charles Miehms. Also in attendance were several members from local and distant dahlia societies.

### **Minutes**

Ed Bonci moved and Bob Schroeder seconded to approve the minutes from the 2014 Annual Meeting, August 31, 2014 as written. The motion passed.

## **OFFICERS REPORTS**

### **President**

.

### **Treasurer**

Mac Boyer was not present, but submitted the following report. As of 9/8/2015, in the Lake City Account, there is \$55,296.90, which includes restricted amount of \$23,987 and unrestricted of \$31,310, and does include the CD. There is \$73,745 in the Ameriprise account, which includes \$65,120 restricted and \$8,355 unrestricted. There is \$45,476.83 in Vanguard securities for a total of all funds in all accounts of \$158,452.40. . moved and Alan Fisher seconded to approve the Treasurer Report subject to audit.

## **REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS**

### **Mid Atlantic Conference**

Charles Miehms reported by email that it has been a challenging summer for growing dahlias in the mid-Atlantic, with too much rain in June and heat and drought since. It has also been an active year for the Japanese beetles as well. These poor growing conditions have resulted in a lower number of entries at the shows, as well as undersized blooms and foliage that is demonstrating the difficult conditions. They had shows in: National Capital Dahlia Society Mid-Summer Show, Maryland State Fair, Gettysburg Dahlia Show at the South Mountain Fair, Gettysburg Dahlia Society Annual Show, Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society Annual Show.

### **Midwest Conference**

Randy Foith reported by email that the Midwest Conference has taken on the effort to eradicate our gardens of the viruses that plague us every dahlia season. Through the efforts of Carl and Jim Chuey of the Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society and the Sheetz-Chuey Foundation, they are asking the Midwest membership to help in this effort. The 2015 Midwest Show was hosted by the Michigan Dahlia Association over Labor Day

weekend. After a great show and banquet, one of the surprise events was the presentation of the ADS Gold Medal to Jim and Carl Chuey by Ron Miner. Although Carl had passed away 18 months prior, he was present in the hearts of the members. Dr. Hanu Pappu also presented a program and question and answer session on viruses. Much information was gleaned by those in attendance.

### **North Atlantic Conference**

Ed Bonci welcomed everyone to the ADS Centennial Show on behalf of the MIDS and the NADC. If anyone has any questions or comments, please feel free to see Ed Bonci, Tom Cleere, Jim Teeple or Bill Clifford. Jim Teeple wants to remind everyone to continue to check the show's website at [www.adscentennial.com](http://www.adscentennial.com) for show information updates which includes: maps, exhibitor directions, court of honor listings, meetings, speakers, etc. [Secretary's Note: this website is no longer active] As of today, nine NADC societies have had their shows with better than average turnouts. Two remaining societies finish out the 2015 season: Provincetown, next week and Greenwich the first weekend in October.

### **Pacific Northwest Conference**

PNDC offered three judging school this summer in Nanaimo, Portland and Eugene and held once successful clerk class. Many judges attended the Portland show and judged in the Canby Trial Garden. Thousands of visitors saw dahlias galore at Swan Island and the Portland Show and entered the ADS Trial Garden. The Wild Rivers Dahlia Society hosted the Conference Show. One week prior to the show, the forest service pre-empted the venue and the society successfully scrambled to find an alternative location. PNDC wishes to thank the Chuey-Sheetz Foundation and American Dahlia Society for the brochures on virus in dahlias. Many growers, including non-members have yanked some virused plants.

### **Pacific Southwest**

John Morton reported by email. The Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference held five sanctioned shows this year. These shows had about twenty percent less blooms as normal as the four-year drought is taking its toll. Cities around the area are financially penalizing those who use too much water or who aren't dropping their usage by 20-25 percent. Even with the water situation, the shows had very good quality. The Dahlia Society of California Court of Honor was very hard to judge as the quality was so high. The John E. Stowell Dahlia Society was unable to have a show this year because of health of their members and low membership. Several of our members joined with The National Heirloom Exposition in Santa Rosa, which is a three day show. The dahlias were the only flowers on display and were judged as an ADS show with ribbons and money given for the winners. The Dahlias were a hit and they have been invited back next year.

### **Southern States Conference**

Buddy Dean reported for Ray Phillips they had two judging seminars this year, with three judges advancing to accredited status. Their focus has been on hosting the National Show in 2016 in Asheville, North Carolina. Everything will be in one location and they have everything all lined up. They invite all to attend! .

## **Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers**

Bob Schroeder reported for Brad Freeman they had a summer workshop and two judging seminars. They have had several shows with two this weekend and the final show next weekend. They are looking forward to hosting the 2020 National Show.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **ADS Reps Coordinators**

Mark Oldenkamp reported he has not been able to use his Outlook email to send out to all the Reps. Madison Varsalona did start an ADS Rep site, but he doesn't find it very desirable. The President's List is incomplete. It was suggested to break down the ADS Reps into two or three different lists, which he will try.

Ken Jensen reported that there are fewer Canadian Reps and he has no problem connecting with them.

### **Bulletin**

They are attempting to enhance the advertising button on the home page of the website to attract ADS Advertisers. The American Horticultural Society has done a lot of work on social media, but it does not necessarily increase membership. A tracking strip will be put on the December Bulletin to see where they are getting delayed. The Editorial Board is working efficiently. Harry thanked the Editorial Board members.

### **Classification**

Lou reported this is the time of year when he is anxiously checking his email and mail box. To date, they have received only five show reports. This is not unusual; in the past the largest deliveries come in the last few days of September and first week of October. There are usually a few stragglers who wait until the last minute. A few shows are held after the deadline of October 10<sup>th</sup>, but they are usually very good about getting reports in quickly thereafter. Once the 2016 CHD is sent to the publisher, they will start work on assembling the next composite, which encompass the years of 1976-2016. They hope to complete that by the end of November.

### **Finance**

Harry Risetto reported the ADS is in stable financial condition. It lacks, however, the financial capacity to support a large research project or major upgrade to the website. To accomplish these tasks on an ongoing basis, the ADS needs an income stream beyond dues and modest annual contributions. The committee will work with the Executive Board to pursue this challenge.

### **Image Library**

Claudia Biggs reported there is not a lot of activity through the summer for the library. She is gearing up for the 2016 ADS New Introductions, however.

### **Insurance**

It was reported that Judy Hines is retiring and will no longer be the Insurance Chair for the ADS. Cheryl Shores, National Capital Dahlia Society has agreed to take it on.

### **Judging Accreditation**

Bob Schroeder reported he will be sending out requests to judging chairs for information for the 2016 Judging Roster. The cut-off date is January 5, 2016. Clubs are being reminded to include candidates in their information and that the minimum requirements to be designated as a candidate are to be a member of the ADS and have attended a judging class. Once Bob receives the new and advancing judges, he will send out the appropriate pins and certificates to the judging chairs.

### **Membership**

Alan Fisher reported he had almost complete stats in his report that is in the September Bulletin. He has closed out 2015; new memberships will be for 2016. Membership is up a little bit, although family memberships are down a bit.

### **National Exhibition**

Art Haskins reported there is a society that is considering a National Show for 2019, which is the only year open in the near future. He thanked the Mid Island Dahlia Society for hosting such an event as a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ADS this year.

### **New Society Coordinator**

Rosemary Freeman reported she has had no inquiries on how to start a new dahlia society. She has heard several societies bemoaning their dwindling memberships and lack of involvement and participation of current members. There is concern that there are not many younger individuals joining and getting involved, although they enjoy meetings, tuber sales, and advice on growing. It is hoped that societies that are flourishing and getting new, younger members who are actively involved will share what they are doing so it can be passed on. It is just as important to maintain the societies we have as well as to assist new societies. The Southern States indicated that the novice section in their shows have had the largest numbers recently. It was commented that our niche should be the 50 to 70 year olds, as their children are typically grown and they have more time for dahlias.

### **Policy Manual**

Ron Miner reported there have not been any updates to the Policy Manual.

### **Photography**

Martin Kral reported the rules for the 2015 photo contest are in the June Bulletin. He is still contemplating how to allow email submissions, but for this year, it is still CD or flash drive submissions. The deadline is November 30, with publication of winners and distribution of awards in March 2016. Don thanked Martin for his work on the comprehensive "World of Dahlias". Martin stepped up to attend the Mexican conference as Don was unable to attend.

### **Research and Education**

Brent Grant reported the virus summary tri-fold brochure, published by WSU staff, was distributed to membership via the June Bulletin. Tim Elkner is pursuing a statistician at Penn State to review the 2010 fertilization data. The fertilization report from Kashmir, India was reviewed by Matt Taylor, Research Manager at Longwood Gardens. He felt it was not that useful as they did not articulate the actual amount of available nutrients in each treatment and it is difficult to conclude anything without that information.

## **Special Awards**

Jerry Landerholm reported there will be a number of awards presented at the banquet following the ADS's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Centennial Show. The write-ups will be submitted to the Bulletin for publication in the December 2015 Bulletin. The Alger Cup for the best single BB bloom has been updated and polished for the 2015 National Show. This show concludes the "life" of this trophy. Congratulations to both this year's winner and the final recipient of this trophy, which has been awarded annually since the 1990 show. In advance of the 2015 National Show, the ADS Gold Medal was presented to Jim Chuey, and in memoriam to his brother, Carl Chuey, for their significant contributions to the control of virus in our dahlia gardens. The presentation was made by Trustee Ron Miner at the 2015 Midwest Dahlia Conference Show in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Thanks go to Martin Kral for acting as international liaison for the ADS. Martin has been given a supply of gold-plated ADS medals, which he may give, at his discretion, to dahlia folks representing floriculture interests world-wide. Our secretary was sent a two-year supply of bronze ADS medals for distribution to all participating societies.

## **Trial Garden**

Ron Miner reported the Trial Gardens are working to complete the evaluation of their entries before the October 10 deadline. The only change for the current year is the use of the virus brochure from Dr. Pappu to be sure that the new cultivars that are reported out of the Trial Gardens as successfully meeting the 85 threshold score did not exhibit symptoms of virus in the Trial Garden.

## **Website**

Linda Holmes-Cook reported she and Sharon Swaney are continuing to work on updating and improving the website. Sharon has been a godsend as she gets the updates on the site so that it is relevant and accessible to members and the public. Servlet mainly hosts the site. All issues of The Bulletin have been digitized and they are working on putting them on the web. Almost all Bulletins from 1965 to current are there. The current issue of The Bulletin is now being posted as soon as it is mailed; this seems to be appreciated by many members. Many of the local and regional show dates and locations were able to be put on the website this year, as well as many of the tuber and plant sales. Now that there is a template for those events, it is hoped that more complete information will be available for the 2016 season. They are working to give advertisers better visibility on the website, rather than being buried on the bottom of the home page in small print. The Facebook group is also very popular with almost 800 members. The Facebook page has now received over 1,000 "likes". Our presence on social media allows an increased level of engagement among members and others interested in dahlia growing and showing. It allows for discourse, idea sharing, and problem solving that seems to be appreciated by those who regularly use this format. Our social media presence spans the globe, with members and users from all over the world.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Alan Fisher moved and Harry Risetto seconded to accept the actions of the board over the past year. The motion passed.**

**Lou Paradise move and Alan Fisher seconded to approve the honoraria for the Secretary and Treasurer of the ADS. The motion passed.**

Everyone was reminded that the Classification Committee will be held on Sunday morning at 7 am so that those who wish to take the bus to the Trial Garden will be able to do so.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm EDT.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder  
ADS Secretary