

American Dahlia Society  
Annual Meeting  
September 1, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 am EDT by President Kevin Larkin.

### **Present**

Board members present were: Kevin Larkin, Ken Jensen, Don Dramstad, Mac Boyer, Terry Schroeder, Harry Rissetto, Wayne Shantz, Eleanor Shantz, Brent Grant, Bob Schroeder, Alan Fisher, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Ron Miner, Judy Hines, Ed Bonci, Ray Phillips, and Lou Paradise. Also in attendance were many members from local and distant dahlia societies.

### **Minutes**

Ron Miner moved and Lou Paradise seconded to approve the minutes from the 2012 Annual Meeting, September 2, 2012 as written. The motion passed.

## **OFFICERS REPORTS**

### **President**

Kevin thanked the members of the West Michigan Dahlia Society for a good job on this year's National Show. He introduced the Executive Board members in attendance and thanked them for all they do with and for the ADS. They are always focused on improving the organization.

### **Treasurer**

Mac Boyer made the following report. As of 8/29/2013, the Lake City Bank Account had \$31,028.23, in checking and savings. There is \$43,713.14 in CDs at that account and \$74,162.12 in the Ameriprise account. There is \$28,173.13 in the Vanguard account for a total of \$177,076.72. There is \$160.42 in the Paypal account, which has a \$30 monthly fee, so some money is always left there. Accounts receivable are \$945.44 and Mac has \$395 in checks that need to be deposited. Reports were mailed to the IRS and New York State for income tax; the reports show that we are a little ahead of last year. Alan Fisher moved and Lou Paradise seconded to approve the Treasurer Report subject to audit.

## **REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS**

### **Midwest Conference**

Jerry Wittrig reported there is nothing new going on, but he has appreciated being involved with this show.

### **North Atlantic Conference**

Ed Bonci reported the North Atlantic Dahlia Conference is about one-third through the show season, with exhibitors and blooms being good quality. Planning for the 2015 National Centennial Show continues, which will be held at Hofstra University. He will bring Steve's gold medal to him. He also has a Golden Anniversary certificate from the 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary to take to Long Island for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary show.

### **Pacific Northwest Conference**

Wayne Shantz reported the Wild River Dahlia Society in Gold Beach, OR held their first show last weekend. They are a new society and are a very energized group of people. The Pacific Northwest Conference is dedicated to this group and people drove 200-300 miles to attend this show. They had 13-14 ADS Seedling Bench entries. Doug Almand, from Ferndale, CA is interested in starting a new society for that area. They held several judging schools and gained a number of candidate judges. The PNDC annual meeting will be held in Eugene, OR in mid-September. Lane County Dahlia Society will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> year of holding an annual show.

### **Pacific Southwest**

Kevin Larkin reported the Pacific Southwest is doing a new judging seminar program that has been well attended. On Sunday afternoon at each show, a mini judging seminar is held on a specific topic.

### **Southern States Conference**

Ray Phillips reported they have had three judging classes as well as one on trial garden judging. The Great Smokey Trial Garden has been blessed with a total rainfall of 91" this summer. At least one of each variety has survived, but 2-15 tubers have drowned. They have added members to the conference, with several promising novice and amateur growers. Plans for the 2016 National Show are progressing nicely. The facility and hotel in Asheville, North Carolina have been selected. There is interest in a new society in the Nashville area.

### **Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers**

Brad Freeman reported in writing the plans for the 2014 National Show are moving along well, with the show being held over Labor Day weekend in Tacoma, WA. They have a great venue with breathtaking views of Mount Rainier and plenty of activities for everyone. More information will be available this fall on our website at [www.nwdahlia.org](http://www.nwdahlia.org). The 2014 Dahlia of the Year will be Verrone's Morning Star. A special section at each Federation Show next year will feature this cultivar. The Victoria Dahlia Society in British Columbia, Canada joined the Federation as an Associate Member and Seattle Dahlia Society became an Affiliated Member. We welcome them to our shows, workshops and events.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **ADS Reps Coordinators**

Don Dramstad reported they are trying to finish the ADS Presidents' List so the ADS can have more direct contact with societies. There is also a thought to have a Show Chair Contact List. He will send out an email requesting that information. Ken Jensen reported that his task is easier as he only has about 10 societies to work with.

### **Bulletin**

Judy Hines requested Bulletin articles be sent in by the ADS Reps to either David Hines or Judy Hines' email address. The September Bulletin is pretty much ready to go. David is interested in continuing with the Bulletin in his dad's honor. Please encourage your society to get their show results in as soon as possible.

## **Finance**

Harry Risetto reported the ADS operating funds are in stable condition. There will be an envelope included in the September Bulletin, soliciting contribution. Members can choose where their money is applied. There is an endowment provision in the bylaws so that you have an opportunity to continue to support the ADS after your passing. The Finance Committee encourages members or societies to be sure to cash checks that are sent to you by the Treasurer promptly.

## **Insurance**

Judy Hines requested that insurance forms be completed and in to her by July 1. It looks like we may be lowering costs this year. Be sure that when you return forms, that all reports/forms are complete. Please call Judy if you don't receive your certificates in a timely manner.

## **Judging Accreditation**

Bob Schroeder reported he is gathering information for the 2014 Judging Roster. Please send information to Bob as soon as you receive it for any judge that is advancing so he can get out certificates and pins to the Judging Chair for distribution. Bob reminded all that names, addresses, and email addresses are for ADS use only and will not be put on the website. They will only be included in the Judging Roster that is distributed to members. On the website, there is a page on the Members Only section where Judging Seminars can be listed. Please provide information on your judging seminars so that the information can be added to this page.

## **Marketing**

Steve Nowotarski was not present, but the first E-Newsletter was distributed in early August. This will be a quarterly publication, aimed to the casual dahlia gardener, which will introduce many new dahlia lovers to the ADS. The E-Newsletter has been well received, with 1150 persons signed up at this time; Steve hopes to have 2000 by the November issue. Please encourage your society members to sign up; the enewsletter is free, but people need to sign up on their own to receive it. A sign-up sheet is available to be used at shows or tuber sales.

## **Membership**

Alan Fisher reported he has started new memberships for 2014. Remember to have your societies submit their membership information by January 1, 2014. Membership is down by 6.8% for 2013. ADS has had fewer new memberships the past few years, than we had experienced historically. Below is a table with the summary statistics for 2013:

As of August 27, 2013	2013	2012	As a % of 2012
Memberships	1735	1853	93.6
Family	577	629	91.7
Members	2312	2482	93.2
New	221	240	92.1
Unpaid from 2012			
362 US; 30 CAN,5 Other	397		

### **New Society Coordinator**

Rosemary Freeman reported in writing she received two requests for new society information; one from Missoula, MT and one from Chigiak, AK (northeast of Anchorage). She has sent them our booklet and supplemental CD but have not heard back from them. There also may be interest in Northern California, but has not contacted them.

### **Policy Manual**

Harry Rissetto and Mark Alger worked on a policy manual that tries to capture major decisions made by the board so that they are all in one place. It is located on the website, in the members' only section, under documents. This was last updated in 2009. A chairperson is needed for this committee so that additional updates can be added.

### **Research and Education**

Brent Grant believes that some basic educational piece should be made available to societies to provide to the public. His society put together a brochure to use for that purpose. He is also looking at the ADS Growing Guide to come up with a recommendation for reprinting.

### **Special Awards**

Jerry Landerholm sent a report via email. .

### **Trial Garden**

Ron Miner announced that Marilyn Walton has been appointed as the new co-chair for the Trial Garden. The number of entries in the Trial Gardens are up about 10% over last year, at least partly due to the addition of the Red Deer TG in Alberta, Canada. Judging is underway and most of the discrepancies in names of entries have been resolved.

### **Website**

Ron Miner reported that he and Linda Holmes-Cook continue to collaborate on the management of the ADS website, and she is almost ready to take over as Chair. They had hoped to be able to share the online search function as a classification guide, but it is not quite ready. This will be something that can be accessed via Wi-Fi on a phone or tablet as well as on a computer. The first mentoring article is on the website; please send articles about mentoring to Linda to be added. Whether you are the person doing the mentoring or being mentored the information is appreciated. Linda has been busy putting information on the ADS Facebook group page, which now has 225 members. They continue to make progress in getting the Bulletins on the website. There was a question about statistics for the website. Linda reported the second quarter statistics, April 1 through June 30, show that the majority of users are new visits with 23.9 return and 76.1 new visits. There were 97,000 unique users in 2012, with 21% using mobile devices.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

**Alan Fisher moved and Brent Grant seconded to approve the honoraria for the Secretary and President of the ADS. The motion passed.** There was discussion regarding raising the honoraria for the Secretary and Treasurer.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Classification Committee**

Lou Paradise announced that the deadline for societies to get their show reports to him is October 10. He encouraged societies to get their reports sent as soon as possible after the end of their show. A new form will be added to the 2014 Classification Book, the orchette. The Classification Committee is reviewing any cultivar that fits the description. The number of cultivars in the CHD without a color chip is down; it is hoped this trend continues. The response to a “micro” class has been weak. The Bay Area show schedules show two micro classes, one for fully double and one for disc center. At the Classification Committee meeting this morning, there was discussion about the definition of disc-centered dahlias and the number of rows of pollen. **Lou Paradise moved and Alan Fisher seconded to alter the description to be more specific to say, “0 to 3 rows of pollen is desirable on all disc-centered dahlias that show pollen.” The motion passed.** This change will be included in the 2014 Classification and Handbook of Dahlias.

### **Judging of Seedlings**

Harry Rissetto stated that in judging seedlings on the SBE or Trial Garden that some judges use a competition-based measure of distinction and others use a measure of the bloom’s uniqueness. The question he has is whether distinction is judged on competition only, its uniqueness as a bloom only or a combination of both the bloom’s ability to compete in open competition, as well as its uniqueness. He suggested we have some policy regarding the judging of distinction. Ron Miner stated that the intent of the new seedling evaluation scorecard was to bring the subjective and competition-based qualities for distinction together to allow for a combination of those qualities.

**Lou Paradise moved and Roland Verrone seconded that the meeting be adjourned.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 am EDT.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder  
ADS Secretary