

**American Dahlia Society
Minutes – Board Meeting
November 12, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm EDT by President Don Dramstad.

Present

Board members present were: Don Dramstad, Mac Boyer, Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Ken Jensen, Terry Schroeder, Harry Risetto, Ron Miner, Charles Miehme, Ed Bonci, John Morton, Cheryl Shores, Bob Schroeder, Alan Fisher, Elva Sellens, Art Haskins, Rosemary Freeman, Lois Ann Helgeson, Nick Weber, Martin Kral, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Sharon Swaney, Kristine Albrecht.

Minutes

Bob Schroeder moved and Mark Oldenkamp seconded to approve the minutes from the March 31 Board Meeting, as corrected. The correction was that Amos Chernoff celebrated his 94th birthday but did not pass away. **The motion passed.**

OFFICERS REPORTS

President

Don Dramstad thanked the Central States Dahlia Society for hosting this year's National Show and thanks to all for attending.

Treasurer

Mac Boyer submitted the following report. As of 11/09/2017, there is \$76,646.14 in the Ameriprise account. There is \$65,835.71 in the Vanguard account. There is \$75,619.90 in the Lake City Bank. There is \$45,918.24 in restricted funds. All restricted funds are updated at year's end. A check for \$1400.00 was sent to the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society on September 23 for the 2018 ADS National Show. All invoices and requests for reimbursement have been paid. Total funds in all accounts is \$218,101.76. There is about \$19,000 more in the Lake City account than last year. There is almost \$10,000 in the Genome Project fund with Dr. Walbot's expenses. **Harry Risetto moved and Alan Fisher seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. The motion passed.**

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Mid Atlantic Conference

Charles Miehme reports the region has had a mild autumn. There has not been a killing frost in the Washington DC area but is expected to change soon. The National Capital Dahlia Society had a successful show, with the quality and quantity of blooms much improved from last year. Bloom sales at the end of the show at the Harvest Festival helped the NCDS coffers. NCDS had elections in November and will maintain their current roster. The first year of the reactivated Mid-Atlantic Trial Garden was a success. The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society show was the same weekend as the National Show. GPDS continues to work on the ADS National Show for 2018. Plans are underway with Longwood Gardens. Gettysburg Dahlia Society had an organizational meeting in October with election of Officers. The new President is John Rost. The society continues to function and the NCDS and GPDS provide support.

Midwest Dahlia Conference

Randy Foith reports the show season in the Midwest has ended for 2017. Digging, dividing and snow are the norm now. Most of the virus testing is complete. While the results are a mixed bag, the hope is for Dr. Pappu to glean much information as we move forward. It is still a matter of extreme importance that we constantly sterilize our tools and take all precautions. The battle with insects continues. The National Show, hosted by Central States was a great time for all those in attendance. The East Liverpool Dahlia Society will not continue to be in existence after the end of 2017. They were 63 years strong, with a great group of people, but just faced many obstacles that made it impossible to continue. Society Holiday banquets are in full swing now as well as the ending to our growing season.

North Atlantic Conference

Ed Bonci reports the NADC has experienced unseasonably mild temperatures into early November. Thoughts now move to lifting, dividing and storing tubers until next spring. Announcements for Holiday parties have been sent out and the 2017 growing season is in the books. All societies saw excellent bloom quality from new and longtime exhibitors. The New England and Provincetown Dahlia Societies combined their shows this year and it proved to be a great success. Judging seminars are being planned throughout the conference for next spring. The Connecticut Dahlia Society recently received The Theodore Wright Award, which is based on the society's community service to Elizabeth Park and the Conservancy by their commitment to the Dahlia Display Garden at the park. A framed award certificate was presented on October 3, during the Conservancy's State of the Park and Annual Meeting. Congrats to all! Long time Mid-Island Dahlia Society members Tom and Lydia Cleere are in the process of retiring from competitive dahlia growing and moving to Florida where Tom assures all that he'll still grow a few plants.

Pacific Northwest Conference

Mark Oldenkamp reports they had a good show season except for Wild Rivers, which was unable to hold a show due to the impact of the forest fires in Southern Oregon. The annual judge's accreditation report was completed recently and submitted to the ADS Judging Accreditation Chair. The Trial Garden in Canby had 30 entries this year, with several entries receiving passing scores and were compiled in the full Trial Garden reports. They are already receiving reservations for the 2018 season. We had several members from the PNDC attend the National Show in Chicago. A few chose to exhibit and won some awards. They are looking forward to attending the National Show in Philadelphia in 2018. Members are finishing up their tuber harvest and societies are working on the elections of Officers.

Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference

John Morton reports things are quiet, and they don't usually have a killing frost. The John Stowell Society is having a difficult time. The San Diego Society needs additional members but is working hard to continue the society. An old Trial Garden in Oakland is now a Community Garden. They will have their annual conference in February. In April the ADS Spring Planning Meeting will be held in their area. They are looking at the San Jose area and the weekend of April 20-22 is the tentative date. A secondary date is April 27-29. They would like to get an idea of the number of people who plan to attend; please send an email to ADS Execs stating whether you plan to or not.

Southern States Conference

Ray Phillips reports they had a reasonably good show season despite the storms Mother Nature sent their way. The Carolinas Show was the same weekend as the National Show, but was a success, according to reports. The Tennessee Show had the lowest number of entries in the 26 years Ray has been attending, due to the heavy rain and strong winds that week. The Georgia

Show, a week later, had a much larger number and better quality of blooms and the Alabama Show was even larger. It was good to see all our friends this season after having only one show the year before, due to the support of the Carolinas Society at the 2016 National Show. We were frosted out at the end of October so are in the cut down and dig process. We are hoping for a good tuber harvest. Now it's Christmas parties and catalog shopping for new cultivars and then starting dahlias in greenhouses for spring planting and sales.

Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers

Brad Freeman reports all is going well. They have had a mixture of weather conditions this fall, which has provided some concern. Planning is going well for the 2020 National Show. They are excited about this location and anticipate having a nice show in a wonderful facility. Wenatchee is a breathtaking area with lots of things to do.

Trustees Report

Harry Rissetto reports that pursuant to the bylaws, the Trustees have reviewed the accounts of the American Dahlia Society and find them in good order. The investment of monies is being done in a prudent fashion. The operations of the Society as described in the Finance Committee reports reflects the input of the Trustees. The Trustees believe it is necessary to remind the Society that is necessary to recruit a Membership Chair by the end of 2017. This is a critical position and the incumbent, Alan Fisher, has served faithfully for about 25 years. Harry also brought up that there are a few societies that are struggling. It might be an idea to discuss the ADS intervening to try to help some societies undertake initiatives to rebuild their base and become stronger.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advertising

Bulletin

Linda thanked Mark Oldenkamp for developing the fillable Excel Show Report form. Two-thirds of the reports received used this new form. Others that were hand written or in Word had to be redone in the Excel form. There also were several that went beyond the allowed space and those had to be edited to fit. A few were sent directly to the printer instead of the editor. The December issue of the *Bulletin* is one of the most labor-intensive of the year and depends on the willing and responsible participation of ADS members at all levels. The three publications that are disseminated to members in our winter quarter mailing include the current Classification Handbook of Dahlias, the 2017 ADS Affiliate Show Report and the December *Bulletin*. It is also the most important issue of the year for advertisers since the bulk of their business takes place between December and March. I am committed to getting the *Bulletin* to our membership in a timely manner. Toward that end, I have recently spent some time in discussion to discuss the factors that influence the mailing date of each of the quarterly issues. He provided a lot of information in describing the process and suggesting things that would help us to have the *Bulletin* in the hands of members nearer the first of March, June, September and December. I am hoping that starting in 2018, we will have deadlines that facilitate timely delivery. Our existing deadline of "6 weeks prior" to the first of the month of issue seems to work well and gives time to collect and assemble the main content of each issue. I would like to propose that we have the membership (mailing) list by the middle of the month preceding the month of issue. This allows for generation of the labels, sorting for bulk mailing, first class, international and other special handling so that members would hopefully receive their books by the first of each issue month. As editor, my hope is that we will be able to establish realistic boundaries and timelines for bulletin content and mailing lists to produce a timely publication worthy of our

membership. Linda is hoping to recruit other members to help with the *Bulletin* and has spoken with Larry Smith from the Portland Dahlia Society who has some interest and experience with publishing and writing.

Classification

Lou reports for the 2017 growing season, the Classification Committee had requests to change the classification of 17 cultivars. There were enough votes for almost half of the cultivars, 8, to have their classification changed for the 2018 season. These will be listed in the 2018 CHD. The committee already has 15 requests for classification changes for next year. The 2018 CHD is complete and has been sent to the printer. Again, they waited for several days past the reporting deadline, hoping to get a 100% return, but it did not happen. There were four societies that did not turn in a report, with phone calls and email unanswered. There also were five societies that did not have shows this year. With 9 societies not reporting, there are fewer cultivars, 1818, listed in the 2018 CHD. So far, we have five cultivars that were pulled from the CHD, after being sent to the publisher. One did not produce enough tubers and four were not reported to be held back. Lou consistently requests originators to send him and email giving him their introductions for inclusion or exclusion in the CHD but has limited response. Due to a computer crash while moving information from Access to Publisher, data had to be retrieved from a backup. It is hoped that all data was able to be captured, but there may be a few mistakes that will be found and reported. They will be working on the Cream of the Crop and Fabulous Fifty next and hope to have it completed in the next several weeks. Congratulations to Ken Greenway on winning the Stanley Johnson award a second time; this time for his AC Ben. The winner of the Stanley Johnson photo contest this year is Ryan Barry and he has decided to accept the cash award instead of the framed cover; Lou will send Mac the necessary information. After many years of service to the Classification Committee, Wayne and Eleanor Shantz have decided to step down and pass the baton. Their replacement is Lexa Cookson. The Wittrigs have also stepped down and their replacement is Tony Evangelista. Roy Phillips is taking over for Buddy Dean as well.

Finance

Mark Oldenkamp reports the ADS has been building a surplus in the insurance fund due to expenses being consistently lower than income. He has developed a spreadsheet tool to help us determine how to return the surplus to the societies that have paid into it. However, there are some societies that require more than the \$1 million in liability that is provided by our current carrier. Mark has been working with Cheryl Shores and put in one phone call to gather some information from an insurance broker he works with. They are hoping to have some other options to be able to provide additional coverage for those who need it. It is felt we should hold off on a decision regarding the excess insurance reserves until we have some more information on the additional coverage. The availability of insurance is an important ADS benefit and the finance committee, along with the insurance committee, is working to make adequate coverage available at a reasonable cost. Harry Rissetto reports the Treasurer's Report reflects that the ADS finances continue to be stable and ready for the end-of-year publication expenses. The question of an endowment is currently on the back burner. The support envelope that came with the September *Bulletin* continues to provide a helpful boost to the ADS project finances.

Insurance

Cheryl Shores reports she received one very late payment for the current year and one very early payment for 2018.

Judging Accreditation

Bob Schroeder reports he will start collecting information for the 2018 Judging Roster in January, with the deadline for submitting information being April 1. He reports he has received positive feedback on the ADS Guidelines for Team Leaders and is hopeful that judging chairs will use it in their annual judging training. It was asked that Bob include information on the criteria for honorary judges so that Judging Chairs have that information, since it was updated.

Membership

Alan Fisher started by thanking all for allowing him to be Membership Chair for the last 25 years, a role that has been rewarding for him personally. He reports he has received more 2017 membership payments, so we are a bit closer to 2016 final totals. He plans to have final membership report for the March *Bulletin*. Because the December mailing labels are complex, he will continue processing until he sends those out and will catch up on mailings. He plans to turn membership materials to Elva Sellens, the new membership chair, during December so she can take over starting in 2018. He will export the database for her, explain how he has been doing things and help with the transition. Once Elva takes over, she will make decisions in consultation with the ADS Board. He will be available to help her when she asks and to support her in this position. He hopes to remain active with and for ADS, both during the transition and after it is complete. Alan states, "Thanks to all my friends in ADS who have worked with me over this period. I look forward to everyone giving Elva Sellens the same respect and appreciation."

National Exhibition

Art Haskins reports he has nothing new to report on National Shows. The next year open for a National Show is 2021. He does have a society that has expressed an interest in 2022.

New Society Coordinator

Rosemary Freeman reports she has had no further requests for information on starting a new society.

Photography

Martin Kral reports the deadline for the Photo Contest is November 30. So far, he has received one set of entries via email. Linda asked if he would like to have something placed on the ADS Facebook page. Martin agreed to write something for Linda to post there.

Policy

Ron Miner reports he will have an update of the Policy ready for review prior to the next conference call.

Public Relations

Lois Ann Helgeson reports she is collecting press release information for the Stanley Johnson and trial garden awards. She also has a permission request in to the New Zealand Dahlia Society for possible reprinting of an article in the *Bulletin*. She also said that there has been a change in her email address. There had been a "tc" in the address, but it has been dropped. Her email address is helge006@umn.edu. She asked all to make that correction and to make sure it is made in the *Bulletin*.

Research and Education

Nick Weber reports they are monitoring the virus and genome projects. He defers to Ron Miner for the virus and Kristine Albrecht for the genome projects.

Special Awards

Jerry Landerholm reports the write-ups for the various medals awarded during 2017 have been given to the *Bulletin* and ADS website. He thanks Alan and Hannah Fisher for making the ADS silver medal presentation to National Dahlia Society member Ted Collins, while on their visit to the UK this past summer. The NDS has also been resupplied with a small number (4) of Special Edition ADS Round Medals for their use for various show award opportunities in England. Special Awards is currently attending to the 2017 Dudley, Hart, Gullikson and Johnson medals. He is having them engraved and writing congratulatory letters for this year's winners. Mr. Harry Waterson has written an informative article on the history of the ADS Gold Medal for numismatic publications. A version of this article will be, or has already been, given to ADS for publication. As far as is known, Harry is not a member of the ADS, but has taken an interest in the ADS's highest medal award. We look forward to reading more about our own gold medal. We extend special thanks to Mr. Waterson for his detailed research and his fine writing.

Trial Garden

Ron Miner reports they had 57 different cultivars successfully score 85 or better among our 8 trial gardens. Roger Walker and I melded the Trial Garden and Seedling Bench Evaluation results together to finalize the classifications of those cultivars before the end of October. The final results have been summarized for the December *Bulletin* and will be put up on the website soon, with pictures from all the trial gardens. Derrill Hart Medals were captured by Ken Greenway, Allen Manuel, and Dick Williams. Richard and Danielle Parshall won two Hart Medals, keeping their multiple medal streak alive for the third year in a row. Ron Miner won the Evie Gullikson Medal. The Mid-Atlantic Trial Garden performed very well in its first year back in operation. Per our discussion last year, the one year of probationary operation has been more than sufficient. Ron stated our TG Directors are unsung heroes in this important piece of ADS business. He encourages all to express their appreciation for the Directors' efforts as the opportunity presents itself. The gardens are an important part of keeping the ADS interesting and exciting. **Ron Miner moved and Martin Kral seconded to approve the Mid-Atlantic Trial Garden for full operation in the summer of 2018. The motion passed.** Ron also mentioned there has been some conversation regarding cutting back from 4 years to 3 years for seedlings. If you have an opinion on this, please let Ron Miner or Roger Walker know. We will discuss it at a future meeting.

Virus Update

Ron Miner would like to highlight the importance of the Chuey Foundation donation of \$800,000 to the WSU Virus Project, which funds a Dahlia Chair, in perpetuity. He reports many of the samples submitted for analysis this summer have yet to be analyzed. Preliminary observations on the results in hand are that 23% of the G1 and G2 samples have been found to have virus. While that result is higher than we hoped it is lower than the 45% virus found in the other samples that were not tested in 2016. For the first time since we started doing virus analyses, we are encountering a substantial portion of Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus. In one instance, a relatively clean garden had an extensive amount of INSV in his dahlias and a substantial die-off of Impatiens in his yard. The appearance of the foliage relates to the presence of virus in the initial data. G1 plants with excellent foliage exhibit a virus rate of 17%, Other plants with poor foliage have a virus rate of 60%. All the foregoing should be considered very preliminary. The balance of the data should be available soon. The team will analyze the data with Professor Pappu's help and generate an article for the website and the March *Bulletin*.

Genome Sequencing

Kristine Albrecht reports Dr. Walbot had two successful trips in October to collect species dahlia seeds in Mexico. She has twelve to thirteen species to choose from for the genome project. Currently, she is leaning toward the high-quality genome sequencing using *D. sorensenii*. Originally, she was thinking she would sequence *D. coccinea* in depth, but it has wide variation in flower color, leaf shape, leaf size and stem properties, so is not the best choice. *D. coccinea* will be sequenced but will not be done using the high-quality sequencing. ADS has funds to sequence six species dahlias and two modern-day dahlias. Dr. Walbot is getting final bids from the sequencing labs and hopes to send out the species dahlias in February, with sequencing complete in March or April. In early October, Dr. Pappu learned that our National Science Foundation grant proposal was not funded. Drs. Walbot, Saar and Pappu will consider resubmitting the grant, considering the critiques from the grant readers. We still need to determine the second modern-day dahlia for sequencing. Please send any recommendations to Harry Rissetto. There was some discussion of possibilities and whether we should try for different colors, types and sizes. Embrace was one suggestion and Ron Miner mentioned that Embrace has been the largest cultivar sent in for testing without virus detected.

Website

Sharon Swaney reports as the dahlia season winds down, the information on the website ramps up. Much of the National Show results and all the trial garden information has been recently added to the site. Classification changes for 2018 are available on the site in the members only area and changes/additions to the Online Classification Guide will be done soon. Thanks to all who have provided information. Sharon continues to work on the new site and still is planning for a January release. She hopes to make the new site more informative and relevant to casual visitors, so she may be asking board members to write a paragraph or two in their area of expertise. She also hopes to have a changing feature story for the site. Changing information drives more visitors to the site. She appreciates all the contributions, both old and new, to the site. As she works on the new site, she is trying to document who is responsible for what information. She may have a new helper, or two, and will be ready to announce this in the future. Harry Rissetto is still writing fun and informative "Dahlia Flashes" and Sharon sends them out to our newsletter email list via Constant Contact. Our goal is to send a message no more than once per week and at least once per month. Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Facebook Group Administrator, reports we have 2120 members. This group continues to grow in value as a resource for dahlia growers, both new and experienced, to exchange ideas and support each other. I monitor the activity in the group very closely, multiple times a day. I am pleased to see the evolution of this group as another way of promoting the growing and showing of our favorite flower. It provides better visibility and she believes it helps with membership. She does screen for blatant advertising and does not allow it. There was discussion of encouraging ADS Reps to put their local society as a group on Facebook and using other social media, such as Instagram. Linda mentioned it might be worthwhile to have a Social Media Chair.

ADS Reps Coordinators

Mark Oldenkamp reports he sends emails to the ADS Reps as requested. There is likely to be new representatives, as local societies hold elections. He will be updating his list as he receives that information.

Ken Jensen reports the weather in his area is becoming a bit colder. He did try to get some Canadian plants in the virus testing project, but due to a 2-week hold up for inspection at Sea-Tac airport, the leaves were not viable. They will try again next season.

NEW BUSINESS

Nomination Committee

Don Dramstad appointed the nominating committee to consist of Jerry Landerholm (Chair), Ron Miner, and Mark Oldenkamp. Nominations need to be placed in the June *Bulletin* to be voted on prior to the Annual Meeting.

Don Dramstad announced the next conference call for the ADS Governing Board will be February 11 at 4:00 pm Eastern Standard Time.

Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook moved and Mark Oldenkamp seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 5:25 Eastern Standard Time.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder
ADS Secretary