

AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 2, 2012

The annual meeting of the American Dahlia Society was called to order by President Jerry Landerholm at 9:15 AM PDT at the Red Lion Hotel on the River, Portland Oregon. Other Board Members in attendance were Steve Nowotarski, Wayne and Eleanor Shantz, Ron Miner, John Morton, Harry Risetto, Bob Schroeder, Roger Walker, Kevin Larkin, Brad and Rosemary Freeman, Lou Paradise, Martin Kral, and Anna Moynahan. Also in attendance were incoming Board Members Donald Dramstad, Ken Jensen and Terry Schroeder as well as many members from local and distant dahlia societies.

The President asked for a moment of consideration for those ADS members who are ill or recently deceased.

Jerry thanked the Portland Dahlia Society for hosting the 46th annual show of the American Dahlia Society and a beautiful show it was.

MINUTES. MOTION by Harry Risetto, second by Ken Walton, to approve the minutes of the 2011 annual meeting as printed in the December, 2011 *Bulletin*. PASSED

TREASURER. The secretary read the report from Treasurer, Mac Boyer as follows: ADS funds 08/24/11 - \$76,030.97. ADS funds 08/24/12 - \$72,148.54. Funds for the fiscal years 2011 - 2012 are Total Revenue - \$74,145; Total Expenses - \$75,154, Deficit for the fiscal year - \$1009. In addition \$5,168 insurance refund checks have been mailed to 51 societies that have participated in the ADS insurance program during the past 6 years. An insurance contingency fund has been continued. All checks have been deposited and all invoices have been paid with the exception of the recently received secretary's expenses. Fiscal tax returns have been completed and mailed for the IRS and New York State. MOTION by Lou Paradise, second by Ron Miner to accept the treasurer's report, subject to audit. PASSED

Jerry announced that the Officers and Committee Chairs have submitted reports electronically to the secretary. MOTION by Roger Walker, second by Colin Walker to dispense with the reading of these reports at the meeting, all of which will be included in the minutes. Anyone wishing to add verbally to these reports may do so. PASSED.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC STATES CONFERENCE. Brent Grant reported the conference show will be hosted by the Greater Philadelphia DS on Sept. 22 & 23 at Longwood Gardens. The Gettysburg show was rescheduled to Sept. 21 & 22 due to a scheduling conflict with the hall. The results of the fertilization project were published in the *Bulletin* and the study may be repeated in 2013 or 2014.

MIDWEST CONFERENCE. Jerry Wittrig reported the following conference show dates and hosts: 2012, the Michigan DA in Ypsilanti; 2013, West Michigan DS in Grand Rapids; 2014, Mahoning Valley DS in Youngstown, Ohio; 2015, Minnesota DS. The Midwest Judges Seminar was held in August at the Bonneyville Mills Trial Garden. Speakers were Mac Boyer, Rick Peters, and Marian Landerholm. A Slate of Officers will be presented at the annual

conference meeting.

NORTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE. Jerry Landerholm announced that Ed Bonci would resume his previous office of Regional Vice President for the conference and was expected at this meeting. However, a dental procedure became infected and he is in the hospital instead.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE. Wayne Shantz reported the conference has held several judging seminars this summer and will have a judging DVD available for their societies by season's end. The Conference show will be in North Bend/Coos Bay next weekend. The Portland DS has worked hard to make this show a success.

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE. John Morton reported that most of the shows have been completed and he noted that the flowers seem to be above average this year. They had 40 people attend a judging seminar in the Monterey area. He noted some societies are having difficulty recruiting new members, especially young persons who can be counted on to continue clubs.

FEDERATION OF NORTHWEST DAHLIA GROWERS. Brad Freeman reports that while his area had little rain, they did have moderate temperatures and plenty of sunshine, which makes for good blooms. He also states that the plans are under way for the Federation to host the 2014 National show at a great venue in Tacoma over Labor Day weekend. He invites all to visit the Pacific Northwest again.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

CLASSIFICATION. Lou Paradise reports that great strides have been made in adding color chip numbers to those cultivars that were missing numbers in the 2011 CHD. Some of this is due to attrition of older cultivars, but many members of the classification committee have chipped the cultivars they have seen. In response to suggestions of having a "Micro" class, Bay Area show schedules included two Micro classes, one for Fully Double and one for Disc Center for cultivars up to 2 inches in diameter. He reminds everyone that the deadline for reporting show results is October 10. He is looking for a person to assist his position.

GARDEN DAHLIAS. Steve Nowotarski reports his evaluations next year will include 2 Micro dahlias. Harry Risetto noted that there is a garden dahlia website and he is looking for pictures of dahlias integrated into a garden setting for this site.

IMAGE LIBRARY. Claudia Biggs reports the most recent programs are the 2011 Photo Contest Winners and the 2011 ADS Fabulous Fifty Dahlias. This fall she will work on the 2013 New Introductions, which will be offered as an automated program for \$13 and an automated program with an additional disc of low resolution photos for \$20.

INSURANCE. By email, Judy Hines reminds all that it is important to send insurance forms for all events at the same time along with payment. She asks that requests be sent in a timely fashion by June 15th. Information and forms are in the December and March *Bulletins*.

JUDGE ACCREDITATION. Bob Schroeder reports the tests for Senior and Accredited Judges have been upgraded and may be found on the Members section of the ADS web site under Judges Info. Also on the web site is the procedure for the reinstatement of judges who have not maintained their judging status. Bob thanked Ron for taking care of these matters. He states that the primary way to communicate with groups or individuals concerning judging matters will be through email. He asks all Judging Chairs to include the email address of all judges, who have an email address, with their reports for the judging roster. These will not be published if the individual so chooses.

MEMBERSHIP. Alan Fisher, by email, reports 2440 new or renewed members to date. This is 97.1% of the 2011 total with memberships still coming in.

NATIONAL EXHIBITION. By email, Arthur Haskins reported there are shows lined up for the next four years as follows: 2013, hosted by the West Michigan DS on Labor Day weekend; 2014, hosted by the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers; 2015, the Centennial Show, hosted by the Mid-Island DS and 2016, hosted by the Carolinas DS. Arthur thanked the Portland DS for hosting this show and also those who have committed to hosting in the future.

NEW SOCIETY COORDINATOR. Rosemary Freeman reported that welcoming letters were sent to the Provincetown and Gettysburg Dahlia Societies. She has had no recent requests for information. Rosemary introduced Linda Holmes Cook from the North Central DS in East Wenatchee, WA, who will work with her on this committee. Linda is enthusiastic about growing dahlias and is herself in a young society. Rosemary also introduced Robert Chibante from Gold Beach, OR, who is spearheading the formation of the Wild Rivers DS.

PHOTOGRAPHY. Martin Kral states the results of the 2011 contest are in the March *Bulletin*. He noted that he had fewer submissions and half the contestants of previous years. He will poll the contestants to learn what would improve the contest and encourage others to participate. No changes to the awards are contemplated. Photos have been forwarded to the *Bulletin* and the Image Library. Updated contest rules were printed in the June *Bulletin*.

SEEDLING BENCH EVALUATION(SBE). Roger Walker reports that SBE materials have been sent to each club that submitted an application. SBE application materials are sent to ADS club reps; individual club requests to have application materials sent to alternates cannot be honored. Clubs are reminded to return SBE materials to Roger promptly after the conclusion of their shows. His final report will be in the December *Bulletin*.

TECHNOLOGY. Don McAllister, by email, said he is working to craft a process to promote ADS At-Large membership online to non society individuals with an interest in dahlias.

TRIAL GARDENS. Ron Miner thanks the TG directors and their support teams who invest a huge amount of time and effort on behalf of the ADS. Steve Kuiper has become Mac Boyer's assistant at the Bonneyville TG. There are 251 entries representing 110 cultivars this year. This is a slight decrease from last year.

WEBSITE. Ron Miner noted that the change in password did not go as smoothly as last year. Servlet resolved the problem once it became obvious. Ron is pleased with the performance of Servlet, even with a change in management, because the same staff person continues to meet our needs very well. The photo contest winners are displayed on the website home page. The Executive Committee agreed to develop articles for the *Bulletin* and website on strategies that helped make their societies successful. These are called "It Worked For Us" and he thanks those who have submitted articles. He noted that local societies are our most important customer. Andrew Miller has agreed to take on the process of updating the Classification Guide on the site and progress is being made but not completed at this time. Harry Risetto has agreed to serve in the capacity of website co-chairman.

FINANCE. Harry Risetto reported that our dues are not covering our expenses with our expenses about \$1000 over our dues revenue. He stated that in the September *Bulletin* is an envelope to provide an opportunity to make either a restricted, i.e. Research, Centennial show, etc. or general donation over and above the dues. He encourages everyone who is able to make use of this envelope.

OLD BUSINESS

ENDORSEMENT OF ACTIONS OF EXECUTIVE BOARD. MOTION by Ken Jensen, second by Brad Freeman, to accept the actions of the Executive Committee. PASSED

HONORARIA. MOTION by Roland Verrone, second by Marian Landerholm to give an honorarium in the amount of \$100 each to the secretary and treasurer. PASSED

TRUSTEES REMARKS. Harry Risetto, on behalf of the Trustees, reports the financial condition of the American Dahlia Society is in good shape. He noted that in the spring he attended a meeting of garden groups and the ADS is one of very few who are retaining their members. He stated that the vitality of the ADS is dependent upon the energy and creativity of the leaders of the local societies and going forward the ADS needs to think of ways that we can help the local societies do their job more effectively.

REPORT OF ADS PLANNING TEAMS. Jerry commented that 2 day planning meetings began 5 years ago. Ron reported that one of the initiatives discussed at the planning meeting, "It Worked for Us" has been put into play.(see above) Jerry noted that we have many talented people in the organization who give freely of their time and talents and he thanks those who have given so much during his time in office.

NEW BUSINESS.

CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS. Lou Paradise reports that the committee will work on the description of the Orchette form and will have this ready by the next annual meeting. Harry noted that the committee decided that it is not an ADS requirement that a wholly numerical seedling needs to be classified at the local show level.

FUTURE SHOW SITES. Jerry thanked the Federation for taking on 2014 National Show on short notice. He announced future show sites. (See National Exhibition report) Steve announced

that the Centennial Show will be held on the north shore of Long Island. There will be some special tours and activities. He invites the Northwest growers to come and bring flowers. Harry Risetto is chairing the Centennial Show Committee and said money is needed. A host is needed for 2017. Mark Oldencamp, Portland DS, would like to see the ADS improve resources and ideas of what the host of a national show needs to do and what to expect.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The secretary read the slate of officers. President, Kevin Larkin; First Vice President, Brad Freeman; Second Vice President, Donald Dramstad; Third Vice President, Ken Jensen; General Secretary, Terry Schroeder; Treasurer, S. McQuithy Boyer; Trustee 2016; Ron Miner; Trustee 2016, Eugene Boeke. Jerry noted that the list of ADS Vice Presidents at large was greatly expanded.

CONFERENCE NAME CHANGE. MOTION by Brenton Grant, Director of the Conference, to change the name of the Eastern States Federation to the Middle Atlantic States Dahlia Conference. Second by Harry Risetto. PASSED

SPECIAL AWARDS. At the banquet, the President's Award was presented to the Gitts Family of Swan Island Dahlias for the many contributions they have made to the ADS and for introducing the dahlia to many gardeners. The ADS Silver Medal was given to Ron Wilkes, of New South Wales, Australia, for being a friend and colleague of the American Dahlia Society for many years. Harry Risetto presented the ADS Gold Medal to President Jerry Landerholm for his many years of service and devotion to the ADS.

FROM THE FLOOR. Dave Brown from the UK, commented on the International Registry of Dahlia Names maintained by the Royal Horticultural Society in Surrey. In time, they will publish the whole registration on line. He would like all dahlia growers to submit their names to this organization. Lou Paradise suggests that this goes through him to avoid duplication. Lou also notes that he is lacking many first names of dahlia originators and asks for help in getting this information.

Martin Kral noted that many growers have a large library of dahlia information and when these persons pass on this material is lost. He noted that Germany has an archive for dahlia material. Harry commented that the Cherokee Botanical Library in Atlanta is the repository for the ADS material and perhaps for that of local societies.

MOTION by Wayne Shantz, second by Lou Paradise, to adjourn the annual meeting at 10:27 AM PDT

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Moynahan
General Secretary