

The meeting was called to order at 5:14 pm EST by President Don Dramstad.

Present

Those on the call were: Don Dramstad, Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Ken Jensen, Terry Schroeder, Mac Boyer, Harry Risetto, Charles Miehm, Ed Bonci, Wayne Shantz, Eleanor Shantz, John Morton, Lou Paradise, Claudia Biggs, Bob Schroeder, Art Haskins, Rosemary Freeman, Martin Kral, Lois Ann Helgeson, Nick Weber, Jerry Landerholm, Sharon Swaney, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Kristine Albrecht.

Remembrance

Don Dramstad asked for a moment of silence for those who have passed since our last meeting. A moment of silence was held for Pat Cunningham from San Diego, CA and Norm Anselmo from Spokane, WA

Minutes

Bob Schroeder moved and Mark Oldenkamp seconded to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2016 minutes as corrected. A correction was made in the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Society reports, that the National Show date for the 2020 Show is September 12 and 13, not September 19 & 20. **Motion carried.**

OFFICERS REPORTS

Treasurer

Mac Boyer reported there is a total in all accounts of \$206,727. There is \$87,531 in the Ameriprise account, with \$82,120 in restricted/designated funds. There is \$60,683 in the Vanguard account, \$57,521.32 in the Lake City account and \$497 in PayPal. There is \$495 in checks to be deposited. In addition, there is \$34,569 in the Genome Fund and an additional \$13,949 in restricted funds at Lake City Bank, not included in the total. In the past, Mac has considered all gifts, dedicated funds as restricted. He has separated the funds as dedicated/restricted and for ADS current use; gift fund, website and life memberships. That total is \$6,208. Mac asked about an invoice from Dr. Walbot for the sequencing. Kristine stated Dr. Walbot is waiting to hear back from labs she has contacted as to the costs. She will let Kristine know as soon as she comes up with something and once they receive an invoice, will send it to Mac.

Second Vice President

Mark stated he needs to get Brad Freeman some feedback on the bylaws so that we can go over changes and updates at the Spring Planning. The changes will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Third Vice President

Ken Jensen reported some of the Canadian members are disappointed they are not able to participate in a couple of the current ADS projects. He also spoke at the North American Glad Society, presenting information on how the ADS manages the judging program and talking about how we conduct business via conference calls. They are interested in looking at using conference calls

and Jean Kulash from the Glad Society may contact Terry Schroeder regarding setting up the Go to Meeting.

It was pointed out that the bank charges \$25 for each check from Canada. Mac will look into ways to decrease that fee. It may be possible for Canadians to send money orders instead of personal checks.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Mid Atlantic Conference (Eastern States)

Charles Miehme reports their region has had a fairly mild winter so far, with an essentially snowless winter in DC. National Capital Dahlia Society (NCDS) will be holding several tuber sales this spring beginning in March and going until June at both their meetings and outside events. The NCDS is also looking forward to hosting the ADS Executive Board Spring Planning meeting March 31 through April 2 in Leesburg, VA. The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society (GPDS) will be presenting a "Tuber Talk" at the Philadelphia Flower Show. They will have a talk about growing dahlias, with an emphasis on dividing tubers. They will have a hands-on demonstration of tuber division. A slide show of dahlia blooms will be on screens during this demonstration. GPDS continues to work on the ADS National Show for 2018.

North Atlantic

Ed Bonci reports the weather has been a tale of two extremes. There have been high temperatures followed by significant snowfall the next day. Members are eagerly awaiting the time when they can start prepping tubers for May/June planting. Most societies are making plans for their annual tuber sales. The New England Dahlia Society, which had its successful inaugural show last season, will be combining its show with the Provincetown Dahlia Society this year, held at The Tower Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA. The Mid Island Dahlia Society's web address has changed to: www.midislanddahlia.org The previous address was www.midislanddahlia.com.

Midwest Dahlia Conference

Randy Foith reports the Central States Dahlia Society (CSDS) has been busy planning the ADS National/Midwest Dahlia Conference Combined Show on September 7th to 11th at the Chicago Botanical Gardens. The Conference is now a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit entity. It is felt this will serve them well as they move into the future. The Board is looking for ways to accommodate our members as well as attracting new growers to our societies. The MDC Spring Meeting and Plant Sale will be in Elkhart, Indiana on June 3rd. The Bonneyville Trial Garden will host a Judging Seminar and Picnic on August 12.

Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference

Wayne Shantz reports their Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference Spring Conference meeting is on April 22, 2017 in Castle Rock, WA.

Pacific Southwest

John Morton reported the Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference met on February 11, hosted by the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society. They received updates on the Genome Project from Kristine Albrecht and Lou Paradise altered them to watch for the new Disc Bloom scoring sheets for this year's seedlings at the shows. There will be a Judging Seminar in the San Leandro area in July. Many members spoke of slow growth of early dahlias as the cold and continual rain, cold and overcast skies. The John Stowell Dahlia Society will not have a show again this year. The South Coast Dahlia Society has decided they can no longer continue; the average age of their attendees is in their

90s. San Diego has a garden at Balboa Park. They have not gotten any new members yet, but the public loves it. They mourn the loss of Pat Cunningham from their society, who was a great story teller and dahlia lover.

Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers

Brad Freeman reports the organizing committee for the 2020 National Show met on Saturday, February 4th to begin preparations for the show. They have an enthusiastic group of individuals stepping up to help with the show and we are excited about the show location in Wenatchee, Washington. Information is being gathered for the Federation's 2017 Dahlia Annual and Combined Show Schedule. It is available for members beginning at our Spring Workshop in March. The Skagit Valley Dahlia Society ceased operations at the end of 2016.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Classification

Lou Paradise reports there will be several corrections to the 2017 CHD that will appear in the June 2017 *Bulletin*. There were spelling problems, name changes and cultivars that were accidentally left out. There have been requests for 18 cultivars for reclassification for the 2017 growing season; exactly the same amount as last year. He expects a few more will filter in before he sends the list to the Classification Committee in July. He was asked why there is only one Gullikson award for the various disc-centered dahlias (8 types) and seven Hart and Dudley awards for the various sizes and forms. He doesn't know the answer to that, but stated that when he designed the classification system, he divided the disc center dahlias into two types; those with one row of florets and those with more than one row of florets. This might be the starting point for considering a second Gullikson award.

Finance

Harry Risetto reports at the end of calendar year 2016, we had net cash of \$206,727, according to the Treasurer. The majority of those funds are restricted on a long-term basis. From another perspective, 2016 revenues exceeded expenses of \$27,704 and carryover revenue from 2015 of \$26,490. This leaves a positive balance of \$54,194, which is typical of prior years. However, approximately \$30,000 of that money will be paid for the Genome and other projects. 2017 dues are still being received and processed; it has been an understandable challenge for local societies to submit ADS dues by year-end. Dues just about cover *Bulletin* and *CHD* costs and the periodic Composite is primarily recovered from sales. If the Society decides to undertake a special project that entails expenses, special fundraising is necessary. The contribution envelope raised about \$900.00 while the genome solicitations raised about \$27,000 as of year-end 2016. Apart from the generous Sheetz-Chuey gifts, the ADS has received virtually no bequests or memorial gifts. These are a significant source of revenue for other flower and plant societies.

Image Library

Claudia Biggs reports she has sent 25 ADS New Introduction DVDs since the end of November, 12 single and 13 deluxe. The next project she will work on is the DVD of the Photo Contest winners.

Insurance

Cheryl Shores reports she has received and accepted our 2017 insurance binder quote from Mercer, and it should be finalized soon. She has started receiving the ADS insurance request forms, stating the society's local membership numbers and their ADS membership numbers. She has received several requests for insurance certificates for events. Only a couple have used the old form.

Judging Accreditation

Bob Schroeder reports he has started collecting information for the 2017 Judging Roster. The cut-off date for sending information to him is April 1st. Members of the ADS Board will be providing a judging seminar at the Spring Planning meeting for the host club, National Capital Dahlia Society. Brad and Rosemary Freeman and Terry and Bob Schroeder will lead the training. A group has been formed to assemble a booklet on "Team Leader". The Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference had produced a booklet on the same subject and have agreed to allow the ADS to use their booklet as a guide. Thanks to Wayne Shantz and the PNDC for allowing the ADS to use their material.

Membership

Alan Fisher is processing memberships, which changes the numbers constantly at this time of year. More than 1000 memberships have been processed since January 1. The totals to date are:

- memberships 1173
- family 425
- Total members 1598
- New 2017 119
- Unpaid from 2016 727
- 55 societies have sent in 10 or more members so far

Alan has requested ADS societies to send in lists of membership payments by February 10 so he can process them before sending the address labels for the March *Bulletin* issue, which he anticipates sending February 15.

National Exhibit

Art Haskins reports there is nothing new to report for the National Exhibition Committee.

New Society Coordinator

Rosemary reports she has received a request for new society information from Orono, Maine. They hope to partner with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's garden at Roger's Farm to establish a dahlia demonstration garden. She has sent them the New Society booklet and supplemental CD. She has not heard back from the Newburyport, MA individual since she sent them material last May.

Photography

Martin Kral reports things went well in this year's contest with one exception. There were only seven contestants submitting 84 entries! Only three of the contestants submitted more than ten photos; hence the results reflect that domination of the contest by these lucky winners. The most popular categories this time were macro and digital darkroom, along with dahlia portraits. Due to low number of entries and inconsistent quality of photos, there was no honorable mention awarded in the dahlia garden category. Martin is considering a trial run of email submission of photos. He is considering several options on the best way to submit photos electronically and the information will be in the June *Bulletin*.

Policy

Ron Miner reports an update is on his "To-Do" list.

Publicity/Public Relations

Lois Ann Helgeson reports press releases for the 2016 winners are out and will be available shortly for the website.

Research and Education

Nick Weber reports we are in a good position to go forward with Phase One in the genome project. Nick hopes to develop something by the Spring Planning meeting dealing with local societies' educational activities. He would like to develop a draft questionnaire, done electronically, focusing on what is going on, what has been successful, what things have been done to help improve and what new activities might be planned. He would like feedback about the usefulness of this.

Virus

Ron Miner reports a summary article on virus analyses has been prepared and submitted for publication in the March ADS *Bulletin*. The project was broadly supported across the country. Growers from 40 different dahlia gardens submitted samples from 722 plants for analysis. The incidence of virus was much higher in 2016 than was found in the prototype study in 2015, 50% versus 25%. There was a statistically higher occurrence of virus in plants with poor foliage than in plants with good foliage. However, there were a lot of examples where plants with good foliage tested positive for virus and plants with poor foliage were clean. There are a lot of possible explanations for this result, including our subjective judgement on what constitutes good or poor foliage. We are working with Dr. Pappu to come up with a plan for testing in the 2017 season. The best news is Jim Chuey, through the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation, plans to again provide support the testing in 2017. Without his support, we would not have had the ability to provide affordable testing in 2016. Thanks, very much, Jim!

Genome Project

Kristine Albrecht reports we have raised \$35,000 to date. Dr. Walbot is putting a bid out to a lab in Israel for sequencing the species dahlia. She would like to be able to sequence Edna C. at the same time. This will provide a comparison of the two. Dr. Walbot and Dr. Pappu are working on the National Science Foundation grant, which will provide approximately \$400,000 to \$500,000 over a two-year period for outreach with schools. They requested societies who were willing to work with schools and received a good representation of the states across the country. This grant will also fund a post-graduate student to do research around the genome information we get. It will also help to assemble the information.

Special Awards

Jerry Landerholm reports all medals for the 2016 SBE, TG and Stanley Johnson winners have been engraved and most have been sent to the regions where we have ADS people to make the proper presentations. Thanks to those who will make the presentations; it is felt this adds value to the programs. The four dies for replacement medals have been sent to the company we've asked to supply our replacement Hart, Dudley, Gullikson and ADS silver medals. We are pursuing the best pricing on replenishing our supply of the ADS gold medal. Jerry will report to the members of the Board with whom he has been in contact once he learns more.

Trial Garden

Ron Miner reports the Great Smoky Mountain Trial Garden will not open in 2017. Buddy Dean hopes to gather additional help and reopen it in the future. The National Capital Dahlia Society will reopen the Mid-Atlantic Trial Garden this year. It will operate on a probationary basis in 2017. John Spangenberg will be the Trial Garden Chair.

Website

Sharon Swaney reports Linda Holmes-Cook has accepted the position of Bulletin Editor, so that leaves her as the main contact for the ADS website. Linda will continue to manage the Facebook page. Fall brought lots of trial garden data to the website. Ron Miner prepares the data, complete with pictures for the website. The seedling bench data was also added to the site. The new year has brought many administrative changes to the website, some of which are:

- 2017 insurance forms, now including a fill-able form are available
- Bulk membership forms, pdf and fill-able are now available with pricing information for membership via a society has been added to the site
- Initial National Show information is in place
- Tuber/plant sale information is being collected so that a schedule of local sales can be added to the site
- The online Classification and Handbook of Dahlias is up to date
- The member password has been changed

Don Filand continues to enhance the picture component of the online CHD. If you are a good photographer, check out his submission instructions and send him your best pictures. Visits to the site remain consistent with previous activity. In the last three months, Google Analytics counted 25,000 page views, 5,000 users and it appears we have about 500 regular users of the site. It is past time for the software used to build and maintain the site to be updated. Servlet, our hosting provider, plans to update the environment in the near future. This may cause short periods of unavailability. There are about 20 societies that have provided information on their local tuber sales. Linda reports we have 1235 members in our Facebook group, gaining on the leading dahlia Facebook group, ISO Dahlias.

Bulletin

Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook reports she and Dave Hines have been busy getting the March 2017 *Bulletin* ready. This issue promises to be interesting and full. Club reports are a bit more lengthy than usual, apparently catching us up on items that were not reported in the December issue, due to show reports taking precedence. Assuming the role of editor at the end of 2016, Linda has kept busy talking to Dave Hines, familiarizing herself with the process currently in place for each quarterly edition. Dave does the layout, printing, sorting and dissemination of *The Bulletin*. Linda will take on the task of reading submissions, editing (content, syntax, length, etc.), proofreading and submitting to Dave. It seems to work best for article and club reports to be sent to both Dave and Linda so that they know what to consider when deciding what will actually go into each issue. Mac Boyer continues to be the contact point for paid advertising, so that we know who has paid, for how long and what size/color the ads should be. The March Bulletin is packed full. Linda is looking at the costs and details around the purchase of the software that Dave uses, In Design, which would help her in editing.

OLD BUSINESS

Policy Committee will finalize for approval structure of the Executive Committee at the Spring Planning meeting. There will also be updates of the bylaws completed at the Spring Planning meeting. Mark Oldenkamp, Brad Freeman, Ron Miner, and Harry Rissetto is on this committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Don Dramstad asked about reprinting, "Raising Beautiful Dahlias". Mac Boyer felt we would need to have at least 2500 to 3000 printed, based on the requests he has received. Don suggested we get price quotes and we will revisit at the Spring Planning meeting. Rick Peters has given his permission for the ADS to reprint it. It was felt that it was not necessary to review the content at this time.

Jerry Landerholm requested information on where to get some of the micro dahlias, as they will be offering a special class for these types of dahlias.

There is a Coalition of American Plant Societies of which the ADS is a member. They meet once per year for a day. This year they are meeting in Chicago at the Ball Seed Company, hosted by the American Horticultural Society and American Dahlia Society on May 17 & 18. If someone on the board would like to attend, they are welcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm EDT.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder, ADS Secretary