

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm EST by President Don Dramstad.

### **Present**

Those on the call were: Don Dramstad, Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Ken Jensen, Terry Schroeder, Mac Boyer, Wayne Shantz, Harry Risetto, Ron Miner, Eleanor Shantz, Lou Paradise, Claudia Biggs, Bob Schroeder, Rosemary Freeman, Don McAllister, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Jerry Landerholm, Charles Miehm and John Morton.

### **Remembrance**

Don Dramstad asked for a moment of silence for those who have passed recently: Eric Juul, Ron Heeringa, Betty Burton.

### **Minutes**

**Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook moved and Bob Schroeder seconded to approve the minutes from November 22, 2015 as presented. Motion carried** and minutes were approved.

## **OFFICERS REPORTS**

### **Treasurer**

Mac Boyer reported there is a total in all accounts of \$181,916.44. There is \$83,059.86 in the Ameriprise account, \$48,564.11 in the Vanguard account, and \$50,292.47 in the Lake City account. There is \$18,248.67 that is designated/restricted in the Lake City account. There were two recent expenditures that were unusual: one for \$6,958 for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and one for \$6,116 for the 1976-2016 Composite CHD Listing. **The Treasurer's Report was approved, subject to audit.**

## **REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS**

### **Mid Atlantic (Eastern States)**

Charles Miehm reports they are waiting for spring after blizzards and ice storms recently. They have the usual complement of sales in the 3 societies. The Gettysburg Society has had some attrition this year and is now at 19 members who are determined to go on and stay active.

### **Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference**

Wayne Shantz reports they have scheduled their spring meeting. Clubs are gearing up for tuber sales. They are also planning to have several judging schools, but he does not have the dates. Mark Oldenkamp added that the Portland Dahlia Society will be celebrating Myrtle Bloomfield's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## **Pacific Southwest**

John Morton reported their conference had a meeting on February 13 in San Francisco hosted by the Dahlia Society of California. Four of their six societies were represented by thirty dahlia growers. Kevin Larkin spoke on the spotted snake millipede, which is destroying their tubers. The Monterey Bay Dahlia Society has invited anyone to join them in a judging seminar to be held in July. Two of their societies will not be able to hold shows this year, due to lack of membership. For the second year, those in the conference are invited to the National Heirloom Exposition in Santa Rosa, CA. Last year's dahlia exhibition was a huge success and they have been invited again.

## **Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers**

Brad Freeman reports The Governing Board of the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers met yesterday. It was the first Governing Board meeting led by the Wayne Lobaugh, the new President of the Federation. In addition to the reports from the Officers, Affiliated and Associate Member Clubs and Committee Chairs the following business was discussed and/or acted on:

1976 – 2016 Composite List of Dahlias – approved a bulk order which will be available to the attendees at the Spring and Summer Workshops and the Judging Classes

New Federation Medal – approved key design features which allows Rosemary Freeman to proceed with the project.

2017 Federation Flower of the Year – selected Chimacum Troy as the 2017 Flower of the Year; the flower of the year is selected from cultivars introduced by Federation members.

Honorary Senior Judges – approved additional guidelines which will be published in the 2016 Dahlia Annual and Combined Show Schedule.

2020 National Show - the process is just beginning so nothing concrete to report.

## **Second Vice President**

Mark Oldenkamp reported he received some Guides for ADS Representatives, providing information about what the position is responsible for. He will have the remainder sent to him and will send them out to new ADS Reps. Connecting with the ADS Reps is going better with the list being pretty complete and often including address and phone in addition to email address. The President's List is about 75% correct; he will check the reports in the March Bulletin for changes. When sending requests to ADS Reps they also go to the Presidents.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Classification**

Lou Paradise reports the Cream of the Crop and Fabulous Fifty were put on the website this year. In previous years we waited until after the March Bulletin was printed. I think that people liked having it available early.

After the CHD was finished, we started working on the Composite. The Composite was sent to David Hines in December and is printed and available. 886 new cultivars were added to the 1976-2011 composite. This Composite covers from 1976-2016.

There have been requests for only 18 cultivars for reclassification for this growing season. I'm sure that a few more will filter in before the list is sent to the Classification Committee members in July.

The Classification Committee has been discussing whether we need to change the number of blue ribbons needed to get into the CHD. Needless to say, there is diverse opinions and this may not be resolved as quickly as anticipated.

Lou asked to have the contact information sent to him for the new societies.

### **Finance**

Harry Rissetto reports the Finance Committee has been in hibernation since the last conference call meeting. Our intrepid Treasurer Mac Boyer has published financial reports for 2016, which have been circulated. The ADS Centennial included about \$10,000 in extraordinary expenses during 2015. In January the ADS paid approximately \$6,000 for printing the composites. Notwithstanding these expenses, the Treasurer reports that the ADS is on sound footing. Revenue will continue to be generated by the ADS Book, the Composite Classification and the other items for sale through the ADS website.

### **Image Library**

Claudia Biggs reports the last couple of months have been busy with sending out copies of the 2016 ADS New Introductions. About half of the requests are for the deluxe version and the other half for the automated program only. The 2015 ADS Fabulous Fifty dahlias program has been completed, although it is not yet listed on the web site yet. I will be working on the 2015 ADS Photo Contest in the near future.

### **Insurance**

Cheryl Shores reported by email that she has received information from nine societies regarding insurance.

### **Judging Accreditation**

Bob Schroeder reports the judging information for 2016 has been sent for the March bulletin along with the list of advancing judges and new candidates. This year we have seventeen individuals who have decided to enter the judging program as Candidates, twenty-six members who advanced to the Accredited Judges level, and finally eleven have achieved the top level of judging, the Senior Judge. Certificates and pins have been sent to the club judging chairs.

### **Membership**

Alan Fisher reported by email that as of Feb. 17, 2016, we are at 84.5 percent in memberships and 85.4 percent in number of members, on a base of final 2015 figures. Initial membership submissions have been received from all societies except Canadian G/DS and Evergreen State/Grays Harbor DS. I am working through sending in packages of publications for those files needing publications. The membership update was provided, showing the progress over the past few weeks.

## **National Exhibition**

Art Haskins reported by email there have been no inquiries about future available dates for National Shows. The next available open date is 2021. I have developed a directive, as suggested by the Board, to be sent to Societies hosting future National Shows directing them to the information contained in the Policy Handbook on the ADS website regarding hosting National Shows. I have sent this along to the two most recent bids, West Michigan 2019 and Federation of NW Dahlia Growers 2020.

## **New Society Coordinator**

Rosemary reports she has continued communications with Matt Mattus from Worcester, Massachusetts concerning the development of a new society in his area. They are still in the planning process, but they have decided on a name, the "New England Dahlia Society". They will be meeting in February and they plan on joining the ADS soon after. They will be partnering with the Tower Hill Botanical Gardens for their first show in 2016. The New England Dahlia Society is still in its formation stage.

I've also been informed of a new different dahlia society forming in New Brunswick (separate from the Greater Moncton Dahlia Society). They have already joined the ADS as an Affiliated Society and their name is "Dahlia Society of New Brunswick". Jim Steeves is their ADS Representative. If you have an opportunity, please welcome these new societies and their members to our growing family.

There was a questions about whether the Moncton Society is still active. Lou stated that it does not appear to be an active society, from his attempts to communicate with them. Rosemary requested that society be taken off the website.

**Rosemary Freeman moved and Bob Schroeder seconded to welcome and approve New Brunswick to the ADS as an Affiliated Society. The motion passed.**

## **Policy**

Ron Miner reports as a result of inputs and suggestions from Arthur Haskins, the contents of the Policy Manual relating to the requirements for the National Show were updated. Let Ron know if you see any additional changes that should be incorporated.

## **Photography Contest**

Martin Kral reported by email he sent a report to be included in the March Bulletin. This year the contest had much fewer contestants and entered photos than in years past. They had only 174 photos to judge. The award money didn't seem to be the reason for the low turnout, and I have not been given any other indication that interest is waning. Our big winner once again was Bill Meyer, but Maurene Rutkin from Puget Sound Dahlia Association had the best photograph. It was encouraging to see so many new photographers participate, and the selection of photos proved to be a difficult one in some of the classes. Copies of the winning photos have been forwarded to Dave Hines for publication and to Claudia Biggs for inclusion in the ADS Image Library. Mac has received my list of winners and a request to prepare prize checks. We hope that the 2016 contest will be more rewarding for all

## **Publicity/Public Relations**

Lois Ann Helgeson reported by email press releases have gone out.

## **Special Awards**

Jerry Landerholm reports the 2015 Hart, Dudley, Gullikson and Johnson medals were engraved and have been sent to the winners, or to folks helping him by making in-person presentations. Thanks to Harry Rissetto, Mike Riordan and Brad and Rosemary Freeman who are helpers this year. Our medal supplier has indicated they only wish to strike silver (no bronze) medals in a minimum quantity of 100. That will not meet our needs. We are currently researching alternatives. This might necessitate having new dies made, which reportedly is not the expensive proposition it once was. I have nothing additional to report concerning this at this time. We are okay for a few years with the exception of the Gullikson medals, where we will be covered for 2016 only.

I expect to place an order for ADS Gold Medals in the near future. At this time, there appears to be no alternative which will save the ADS money. The board has previously given me authority to purchase the ADS Gold Medals. No action is required.

## **Trial Garden**

Ron Miner stated there is nothing new to report at this time.

## **Website**

Linda Holmes-Cook reports since our last board meeting, she and Sharon have spent a lot of time updating website information. This includes contact information for local affiliates, 2016 National Show information, trial garden and seedling bench results. Sharon has also added the Fab 50 and Cream of the Crop. We have also added items to the ADS Store: the 1976-2016 Composite Guide, the 2016 Dahlias of Today and the New Introductions DVD. Sharon also worked closely with Martin Kral to add his new resource on Species Dahlias, which contains great information on wild dahlias.

We would like to officially add Sharon Swaney to the Executive Board, either as Technology Resource person, or as the Assistant Website Coordinator. With the exception of webhosting, Sharon has assumed all the responsibilities of site updates that we used to pay Servlet to do. She is planning to join us in April at the Spring Planning meeting.

Things we still need: The March and September 2013 Bulletins have not been scanned or posted to the site, because we apparently are having trouble finding copies to scan. If anyone has those, please let us know so that we can borrow them and get them to Stan for scanning. We also need press releases on our major award winners, so we can get this information up on the site. Also, are we planning to sell CDs of the 2015 ADS photography contest winners? The last one we have in the store is 2014.

From time to time, we hear from members who are having problems opening a page or an article – however, between us, we usually manage to help these people to successfully access what they need.

Our Facebook group has over 900 members at this time and our Facebook page has over 1250 “likes.” Facebook has turned into a great forum for dahlia growers at all levels, and I suspect it has also helped bring some new members to ADS.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Spring Planning**

The Spring Planning meeting is set for April 1, 2, and 3 in Illinois at the Pheasant Run Resort. Jerry has sent out information; registration deadline to get the ADS rate expires on March 2, so if you haven't made reservations, do so now. If you have any items for discussion, get them to Mark, Harry or Don Dramstad.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Honorary Judge Definition**

It was decided to discuss the Honorary Judge definition and description at the Spring Planning Meeting.

### **Bulletin**

Harry Rissetto reports there is great coordination between Mark and the ADS Reps to get membership information in. Mailing labels were received ahead of time for the March Bulletin!!

### **Virus**

Ron Miner reports an article on recent developments in the virus project will be included in the March Bulletin. It describes the results of an experiment that analyzed for the presence of six different viruses in a series of leaf samples gathered from a number of gardens in NE Ohio. The gardens included Jim Chuey's, Tony Evangelista's, Jerry Moreno's, and mine. Three samples were also taken from Randy Foith's garden to provide more comparisons of results on the same cultivars tested in the other gardens.

The six viruses for which the samples were tested are the six that Dr. Pappu has identified as those that naturally occur in our gardens and are the ones we need to be concerned about.

The key results of those tests were 1) that most of the samples tested were free of virus and 2) that the appearance of the foliage correlated well with the presence and/or absence of virus in the plants. That is, the results support the "If in doubt, throw it out," published earlier with the June Bulletin.

A detailed report on the project that includes pictures and charts is in preparation and will be published on the website soon. It appears unlikely that Dr. Pappu will be able to come to the National Show this year; he is scheduled to be in Brazil on University business on that weekend. We plan, nevertheless, to include discussion on the virus

Sharon has succeeded in translating the more detailed virus report to a document that works on the website. It is posted there today; see the link at the bottom of the home page. Sharon deserves our sincere THANKS!! What a great job she continues to do on our behalf!

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm EDT.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder, ADS Secretary