

American Dahlia Society  
Annual Meeting  
September 18, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 am EDT by President Don Dramstad.

### **Present**

Board members present were: Don Dramstad, Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Ken Jensen, Terry Schroeder, Wayne Shantz, Ron Miner, Charles Miehme, Ed Bonci, Eleanor Shantz, Ray Phillips, Lou Paradise, Claudia Biggs, Bob Schroeder, Alan Fisher, Art Haskins, Rosemary Freeman, and Sharon Swaney. Also in attendance were several members from local and distant dahlia societies.

### **Minutes**

**Terry Schroeder moved and Roland Verrone seconded to approve the minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting, September 18, 2015 as written. The motion passed.**

### **OFFICERS REPORTS**

#### **President**

Don Dramstad reminded all that there was no new business at this annual meeting as any new business items would need to be published in the June Bulletin. He asked for a motion to approve the honorarium for the secretary and treasurer. **Alan moved and Bob Schroeder seconded to approve honorariums for the secretary and treasurer. The motion passed.**

#### **Treasurer**

Mac Boyer was not present, but submitted the following report. As of 9/1/2016, there is \$95,039.49 in the Ameriprise account, \$58,819.43 in the Vanguard account, \$40,444.42 in the Lake City Bank, for a total of \$194,303.34. Payments have been issued for all invoices received to date, including the September Bulletin printing and mailing. There were 42 votes received by email and USPS for the slate of officers in the election. No write in requests were received. Mac is working on the IRS and New York State ADS tax filings, due before October 31, 2016. When that is completed, he will organize material for the audit. There was a question as to how much of the funds is restricted. Don Dramstad stated that in talking with Mac Boyer, about \$100,000 is restricted funds.

### **REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS**

#### **Mid Atlantic Conference**

Charles Miehme reported that it has not been a banner year in the Mid-Atlantic region. Cold and wet weather delayed prep work and planting for many. In June, the heat set in and it was an extremely dry and hot summer. There has been a lack of quantity and quality of blooms noticeable in the shows, which has been disappointing. There have been four shows so far; two were sparse and two were better. There have been several undersized blooms and blooms with green centers. The National Capital show, which is next week, may have a better display, due to milder weather and some rain. Hopefully, there will be ample tubers and next year will not be adversely affected.

### **North Atlantic Conference**

Ed Bonci reported they have had short plants but a decent amount of blooms this year. A new society, New England Dahlia Society had their first show this weekend with a good turnout and a nice venue at the Tower Hill Botanical Garden. Lou requested contact information so he could send them the reporting information for their show report.

### **Pacific Northwest Conference**

Wayne reported Larry Smith is the PNDC Secretary. The Nanaimo Dahlia Society hosted the PNDC Conference Show. Their kindness, thoughtful planning and hospitality were appreciated by attendees. The Canby Trial Garden contains the maximum number of entries. The Portland Dahlia Society has developed some strategies to deal with possible virus or other issues in the cultivars sent to the Trial Garden. The Victoria and Lane County Dahlia Societies held judging seminars focusing on a judging review at one and a focus on seedlings at the other. The seedling seminar included an ability to obtain both trial garden judging as well as seedling bench evaluation. It was well attended by 28 persons from California, Oregon and Washington. The training was very worthwhile to the participants.

### **Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference**

Lou Paradise reported growing problems as well. They have had no heat, but have had an ongoing drought, so difficult to give dahlias a drink. They are probably about 25 to 30% down in their shows. They had a good judging seminar this summer. There is a possibility of losing two more societies in their conference.

### **Southern States Conference**

Ray Phillips thanked everyone for attending the National Show in their area. He reported they have had an extended string of 90 to 100 degree days with high humidity and heat index of 100+, the worst they have seen. Some areas have had significant rain, while others had little or none. The Southern States had a judges training in early August that was very well attended. The following week they had a meeting at the Great Smoky Mountain Trial Garden which included training, trial garden judging and final preparations for the National Show. They could see some of the new cultivars in the trial garden and both events provided an opportunity for fellowship with the other societies in the Southern States Conference.

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

Brad Freeman reported the Federation has had their usual busy summer of dahlia shows hosted by various societies, starting the first weekend in August and ending the last weekend of September. The quality and quantity of the blooms in the show and on the ADS Seedling Bench is good. There are often ten or more entries on the Seedling Bench. The senior and accredited judges are easily able to judge several entries on the seedling bench or in the trial garden each year. In addition to our shows and other activities, the Governing Board of the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers is working on selecting a venue for the 2020 ADS National Show. There continues to be issues with the border and it creates problems for showing across the border. The Federation is working with the Canadian societies to provide judges training for those societies in British Columbia, especially those on Vancouver Island.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Classification**

Lou reported this is the busiest time of year for them. Several societies have stated they are not having a regular show in order to help with the National Show. As usual, they wait, impatiently for reports to flow in. Although several shows have been held, they have only received a couple show reports. Typically, the largest deliveries come at the end of September and early October. The switch from sending reports via snail mail to email has been astounding. The majority of reports are now received electronically. One of the advantages to this is elimination of errors when transferring written data to electronic format. This process is the second most time-consuming portion of getting the CHD out; the most time-consuming portion is researching the non-ADS winners. Mailing reports also can take significantly longer to be received than electronic ones do. At the Classification Committee meeting, it was decided to change the wording on the petite waterlily from should have fewer ray florets to may have fewer rows of ray florets.

### **Finance**

Harry Risetto reported. The ADS has funds to meet its current obligations and a reserve to support the cost of year-end obligations. There are several ongoing projects that will need special funding, e.g. the genome project and fertilizer research. The virus project has received extraordinary support from the Chuey-Sheetz foundation, but will need ongoing funding to make implementation of the virus tests practical for growers and local societies. A contribution envelope has been included in the September Bulletin. ADS and Society Representatives are asked to encourage gifts as well as bequests to the ADS in wills and trusts. The committee does not recommend an increase in dues at this time. Don announced Christine Albrecht has been added to the Finance Committee with the main focus on raising money for the genome project.

### **Garden Dahlia**

Don reported we still have this committee on the books, but since Steve Nowotarski's passing, there has not been anyone to take on this committee chair. Don states we need to do a deeper search for someone to take over this committee. Sharon Swaney reported the Container Garden is the most visited page on the website.

### **Image Library**

Claudia Biggs reported it is quiet at this time of the year, but soon she will be gearing up for the 2017 New Introductions DVD. She sold about 40 DVDs this year.

### **Insurance**

Cheryl Shores reported she all covered all outstanding insurance requests. She has asked that the new forms be listed in the ADS Bulletin for the fall for people to use in the spring.

### **Judging Accreditation**

Bob Schroeder reported he plans to request all judging chairs have an email address or access to email. The Judges Roster will be printed with the June 2017 Bulletin instead of the March Bulletin. The deadline for clubs to submit judge's information will be April 1, 2017. He wanted to remind Judging chairs to remember to include candidates in their report. Please highlight those judges that are new candidates or advancing so that he can send a certificate/pin for them.

### **Membership**

Alan Fisher passed out a summary sheet for the membership for 2016. Membership in the US has increased about 3% over 2015; there was a decrease in Canadian membership. We had the best membership year since 2012. The handout he distributed had final membership totals for 2001 to 2016. This year's membership is 2321 and last year there were 2250.

### **National Exhibition**

Art Haskins thanked the hosts of this year's show for a great show and gave congratulations to them. Shows are booked through 2020, with 2021 and beyond available for shows. Next year's show is in the Chicago area and 2018 in Philadelphia, 2019 is Michigan and 2020 is in the Northwest.

### **New Society Coordinator**

Rosemary Freeman reported there have been two new societies, New Brunswick, Canada and New England Dahlia Society near Worcester, Massachusetts. Both need to have the ADS President present their official confirmation certificates and formally welcome them to the ADS. She has also sent information to another society in Newburyport Massachusetts; she sent information but has not heard back from them. The New Brunswick Dahlia Society has the same name as an earlier society that did not flourish. Although it has the same name, Rosemary believes it should be treated as a brand-new society.

### **Photography**

Martin Kral reported the rules for the 2016 ADS Photo Contest are in the June Bulletin. He is encouraged that every year new photographers submit worthwhile entries. There are also just as many longtime contributors who do not participate. He would be curious to know what motivates member to send (or not send) photographs for the contest, so that we can make changes, if that proves necessary. Don added that Martin has unofficially become the unofficial ADS dahlia ambassador to Mexico. They are very interested in being active with the American Dahlia Society. They will start genome mapping of species dahlias as part of the genome project.

### **Research and Education**

Don Dramstad reported he had received a letter of resignation from Brent Grant as Research and Education Chair, due to health issues. Don will be naming a replacement soon.

### **Special Awards**

Jerry Landerholm sent his regrets at not being able to attend this year's National Show. Don Dramstad agreed to make Special Awards at the banquet. The ADS President's Award was given to Susan Linn. Two ADS Silver Medals were given by ADS President Don Dramstad. Buddy Dean, Carolinas Dahlia Society received a Silver Medal as did John Kreiner, Dahlia Society of Georgia. Jerry continues to locate suppliers for our various ADS medals so we can meet our needs at affordable prices.

### **Trial Garden**

Ron Miner reported the Trial Gardens are now at their busiest, completing the evaluation of 239 entries over the eight gardens. He thanked all who have been a part of the seedling scoring process and asked members to thank the Trial Garden Directors for all the time and effort they invest on the behalf of the ADS.

### **Website**

Sharon Swaney reported they have launched Dahlia University, a resource for all, aimed at new growers. There are currently eight courses available with an expectation it will continue to grow. They have posted updates on virus research and resources that will be helpful to growers in identifying and eliminating virus in their gardens. With assistance from Don Filand, they have been able to get many photos uploaded to the online CHD. If you have a photo, please see the instructions for sending them by clicking on the "Online Classification Guide", and at the bottom of that page, click on "About these pages". At the bottom of that page, click on "*How to send your photos*". Follow those directions and send to the appropriate email address. They also compiled a list of 2016 tuber sales and show schedule for affiliated societies. They hope to streamline this process to make it more accessible to all. The website traffic remains about the same, with an increase during the showing and growing season. As members pass on, they are honored to pay tribute to them in the "In Memoriam" page on the website. At the time of the meeting, the ADS Facebook group, which has been growing steadily, reached 1071 members. The Facebook group has been able to raise the ADS's profile as a vital part of the dahlia-growing world. It is believed that Social Media has had a part in ADS's increased membership this year.

### **ADS Reps Coordinators**

There were several suggestions that were discussed at the Spring Planning Meeting. The ADS Coordinators will be coordinating a bylaws review process anticipated to go through this winter in preparation for conceptual revisions to the organizational structure that was approved. One of the big initiatives was to try to get photos on the website, which is being done. The work that Mark and Ken has been doing with communication with the ADS Reps has been invaluable.

## **Virus Update**

Ron Miner reported he has been disappointed with the current level of response to the opportunity to have dahlias tested for virus at WSU. Only a handful of clubs have taken advantage of the opportunity that was made possible by a large donation by Jim Chuey and the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation. I encourage every club to work together to send a set of samples for evaluation. The objective for the testing by several clubs is to identify a set of plants that are free of virus so that the tubers from those plants can provide first generation ("G1") tubers for club spring plant and tuber sales. Professor Pappu has said that those G1 plants and tubers will have a high probability of also being free of virus, as long as they are handled with the prescribed care. The key element of that care is sterilizing all cutting tools between each plant with a 10% solution of bleach. Choose plants with the best-looking foliage for the tests if that is your objective in the process. Current turnaround time for virus results are as much as 6 weeks; please plan ahead if you want to have results before the end of the season. From his garden, he sent in samples in 2015 and the results showed 10% had virus. In 2016, his samples showed 80% with virus. The samples he sent in 2015 were those that looked good, while those sent in 2016 were ones that appeared to have virus. The bottom line is we are just started in this learning process. The other test, that was from the Northwest, had a 50% virus report.

The Genome Project will work in coordination with the virus research. It is hopeful that with the genome project, we will be able to determine virus-resistant varieties. You can still send in samples this year. There is information on the website on how to send the samples in. Ron's hope that with more plants submitted for testing we will find some that are virus-resistant. By sending plants that look good throughout the season, you have the highest probability of testing virus free. Those would serve as a source of tubers for spring planting. He also recommends sending the same sample the following year. It was noted that virus free does not mean there is no virus, but virus cannot be detected.

Don Dramstad announced the next conference call for the ADS Governing Board will be November 6 at 4:00 pm Eastern Standard Time. The Spring Planning Meeting will be in Leesburg, Virginia from Friday March 31 to Sunday April 2. The meeting schedule next year will be February - Conference Call, March/April - Spring Planning, September - ADS National Show and November - Conference Call.

Don thanked all for attending and asked for feedback on the genome project.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 am.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder  
ADS Secretary