

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, Harry Risetto, Ron Miner, Charles Miehm, Ray Phillips, Lou Paradise, Claudia Biggs, Bob Schroeder, Alan Fisher, Rosemary Freeman, Jerry Landerholm, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook and Sharon Swaney. Also in attendance were several members from local and distant dahlia societies.

Minutes

Harry Risetto moved and Bob Schroeder seconded to approve the minutes from the 2016 Annual Meeting, September 18, 2016 as written. 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 8/29/2017, there is \$83,149.00 in the Ameriprise account, down 6.7% from 1/1/17. Of that amount, \$75,700.00 is restricted. The annual income from that account is \$4,323.00, which is unrestricted. There is \$58,644.58 in the Vanguard account, down 3.5% from 1/1/17. This account has no restrictions. The annual income for this account is \$2,581.70. There is \$69,941.35 in the Lake City Bank, with \$1,087.50 in checks to be deposited and \$275.15 in the PayPal account. There is \$45,299.02 in restricted funds and \$6,657.64 that is available for ADS operational funds (no restrictions). There is \$1,235.02 due in payments for vases. Payments have been made to Parrot Press and Postmaster for the September Bulletin of \$7,848.00. Mac states he foresees having adequate funds to cover expenses through the year end without drawing funds from either Ameriprise or Vanguard accounts. He also does not expect any membership deposits during the fourth quarter. Total funds in all accounts is \$213,097.59, with \$92,098.57 that is unrestricted. **Harry Risetto moved and Alan Fisher seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. The motion passed.**

Trustees Report

Harry Risetto 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.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Mid Atlantic Conference

Charles Miehme reported that it has been a good year for dahlias in the Mid-Atlantic. The weather has been cooperative, not a really hot summer, usual number of 90+ days but no periods of very hot days and there was an abundance of rain. The Gettysburg Dahlia Society had their show on September 1 & 2. The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society show is occurring this weekend. Due to a scheduling conflict with Longwood Gardens, they had to move the show up a week. GPDS is working on the 2018 ADS National Show and a return of ADS to Longwood Gardens. The National Capital Dahlia Society show will be September 23 & 24 at Brookside Gardens. The NCDS mid-summer show was Sunday August 20. The blooms were nice and abundant. Steve Trumpower of the Gettysburg Society took both Senior and Junior Grand Champion awards. The Maryland State Fair show was Sunday August 27. Entries were not as numerous as prior years due to some usual participants not being present. Nick Weber scored both Senior and Reserve Grand Champions.

North Atlantic Conference

Ed Bonci reports the NADC started off the 2017 season on August 19, with the return of The New Jersey Dahlia Society's show at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, after several years' absence. Growers from both Long Island societies, along with members of the Connecticut societies, helped out by displaying their blooms, making for a very successful show. Weather conditions were far better this summer in terms of rainfall compared to the past two years and it was shown in the quality of blooms on the show benches. The NADC's 47th annual show will be held Sept 23/24 at The Tower Botanic Garden in Boylston, MA. This is a combined show of both The New England and Provincetown Dahlia Societies. Ed apologized for not being able to attend this year's National Show in Chicago as he was in Japan with his wife, Pam.

Pacific Northwest Conference

Mark Oldenkamp report the shows for the PNDC societies are taking place most every weekend now. The Portland Society hosted the Conference show the last weekend of August. At the annual meeting, Phyllis Shafer of the Lane County Dahlia Society was honored with the PNDC Gold medal presentation. She has been instrumental in show reporting over many years as well as assisting the Conference Judges Accreditation chairs with data input regarding judges' performance and advancement. A judges training session was conducted in Portland in early July, which was well attended. Seven candidate judges were present and are working on getting their tests completed and sent in. The weather and related fires have presented many challenges. The Wild Rivers Society annual show, located on the Oregon Coast, has been postponed due to forest fire related issues. The Trial Garden in Canby has 31 entries this year. A team of Portland Dahlia Society members share the grooming and care of the garden. The plants have been looking good and the blooms have been coming on for judging. There are many nice varieties that are receiving passing scores. There are several PNDC members that are attending the National Show this year. In April, the PNDC leadership approved a contribution to the ADS Genome project from Conference funds.

Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference

Lou Paradise reports the drought in their area was broken. They planted later than usual due to rainfall, with some not getting planted until May or June. They have lost several members due to age. Another society in the Los Angeles area folded. It leaves the San Diego Dahlia Society as the only society in southern California. They held judging seminars which were well attended this year.

Midwest Dahlia Conference

Jo Jepson reported for Randy Foith. She reports in the Midwest they have been dealing with a mixed bag of weather conditions. They have had issues with short plants and mites due to dry and warm weather. The Central States DS has been busy with finalizing all the plans to host the 2017 National/Midwest Show at the Chicago Botanical Gardens. What a beautiful place for this year's Dahlia Show! The Midwestern Dahlia Society is doing well and just had their local show. In early August there was the annual Judging Clinic and Picnic at the Bonneyville Trial Garden in Elkhart, Indiana. There were lots of beautiful blooms to judge for all in attendance. The Midwest Dahlia Conference has been increasing membership, as well. The MDC finalized the 501c3 process, which resulted in a sizeable contribution from Jim and Carl Chuey. The 2019 National Show will be held in Grand Rapids, MI; she hopes all will plan to attend.

Southern States Conference

Ray Phillips reports the Perry Georgia National Fair Dahlia Show will be ending this fall, due to a lack of exhibitors and the late date (mid-October). This brings the number of Southern States shows down for four for the season. The Southern States had a much better year for growing due to receiving rain and they have had a wonderful growing season. The first show was this past Friday, Carolinas Mountain Fair in Asheville. The Tennessee show is next weekend and then Georgia and Alabama. Several candidate judges are ready to join the judging program.

Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers

Brad Freeman reports the weather has been hot and dry in the Pacific Northwest this summer. The hot weather does present some challenges to growing dahlias, such as open centers and long stems. Even with the challenges, our exhibitors manage to bring outstanding blooms to the local shows. There have been high temperatures, forest fires all around, bringing ash and smoke to our area. The shows provide a great opportunity to engage with the public and to display the beauty of the dahlia. At the summer meeting of the Governing Board, the following individuals were selected to be inducted into the Federation Hall of Fame: Ken and Marilyn Walton together with Brad and Rosemary Freeman. They will receive a plaque acknowledging their contributions to the Federation at the 2018 Spring Workshop. The Federation continues planning for their National Show in 2020 in Wenatchee and encourages people to plan to come and see another side of Washington.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bulletin

Linda states letters have gone out to advertisers and she has had some responses back. Her goal is to get the Bulletin out in the first week of the month it is due. The advertisers appreciate the Bulletin getting out in a timely manner and if we aren't able to do so, they will not continue to advertise with us. For September, there was a minor delay due to membership, but should be out soon. Linda obtained a copy of Adobe Acrobat XI Pro, which enables her to edit PDFs. This is especially valuable when she is proofing the Bulletin after Dave has done the layout. In April Don Dramstad appointed a committee to evaluate the processes that we currently use to publish and disseminate our quarterly bulletin. Linda continues to work to make the Bulletin the best it can be!

Classification

Lou reports several societies have gotten back to him that they will not have an annual show this year. As usual, he anxiously waits for reports to flow in, which seems to be a normal theme. To date, they have received just two show reports. This year is the first year they have mandated all show reports be submitted electronically. They expect most reports to come in the last few days of September and early October. He is interested in how the micro dahlia class did in this year's National Show and hopes to see a micro dahlia section in the next several National shows to assess whether a micro class seems viable at this time. Cindy Soule has agreed to be a back up to Lou.

Finance

Harry Risetto reports the Finance Committee has reviewed the data provided by the Treasurer and concludes the ADS has adequate funds to meet its obligations through year-end 2017. There is a total of \$213,097 in ADS funds, of which \$122,999 is restricted. The restricted/designated funds include the Boeke accounts, the Genome project, the Insurance Contingency account, various research accounts and several smaller miscellaneous accounts. There will be significant outlays before year-end for the December Bulletin, the Classification and Handbook of Dahlias (CHD), the Show Summary and new member expenses. Dues from local societies continue to be received during the first quarter of the calendar year. It would be nice to accelerate the balance of dues for 2018, but many societies are inactive after the show season until early 2018. PayPal continues to be identified as a less expensive way of receiving the Canadian dues to avoid the high cost of checks. PayPal can be used by anyone with a credit card. The Treasurer currently accepts PayPal payment from those using the ADS store. The Finance Committee has begun discussion of establishing an Endowment Fund to provide continuing support to the ADS. We recognize that access to those monies is limited to appreciation of the fund. For many years, the Treasurer has handled the production and mailing of ADS vases. In the near future, a transition for someone else to handle the vases or a decision to discontinue this service will need to be made. Advertising in the Bulletin has dropped off, even though we now include advertising on the website with their ad in the Bulletin. We need to identify an Advertising Manager. This position would involve contacting current and prospective advertisers with a letter and/or phone call. There may be some non-dahlia advertisers, such as container or fertilizer companies interested in advertising with us. The President has appointed a special committee to review the production costs of the

Bulletin. The Finance Committee is grateful to the Scheetz-Chuey Charitable Foundation for its generous support of the Virus Project at Washington State University. A thank you to Ron Miner is appropriate. The American Dahlia Society is on sound footing and is involved in two long-range dahlia projects. There is much more that can be done that provides more immediate value to our members, local societies and dahlia growers. We ask for your continuing support through direct contributions and use of the envelope in the September Bulletin. The Insurance Contingency Fund has a surplus. The Finance Committee has been asked to determine the most effective way to handle this surplus.

Image Library

Claudia Biggs reports she is gearing up for the 2018 ADS New Introductions. She needs to get pictures for that DVD and information on who is selling those new introductions. She is waiting to receive those until after the Trial Garden and Seedling Bench Evaluations are final. She has the 2016 ADS Fabulous Fifty and 2016 ADS Photo Contest winners available. She brought some programs to the show.

Insurance

Cheryl Shores reports she has had a couple of last minute requests for insurance, but our totals are:

Money Collected	ADS Members	Society Total Members
\$2,980.00	1,161	2,686

She had a conversation with our Insurance Representative regarding our insurance for the 2018 calendar year. She explained generally most of our society insurance needs are small (monthly meetings, etc.), but when we have our dahlia shows where many people from the public are attending, we require a larger space. It's been brought to her attention that several societies have venues requiring more coverage than our policy limits cover. Several options were asked about:

- Increasing our general policy
- Having a tiered policy where we would have one general policy and then a second tier covering those societies that require additional coverage
- Having the societies that need more coverage, for specific venues, to contact the insurance company directly.

The response she received was, "At renewal, you can apply for an umbrella policy with your blanket liability. However, it would be on a blanket basis for all society members and we cannot carve out just certain societies. We also cannot offer individual umbrella policies for those certain societies. The umbrella policy would be \$1,000,000 limits and the premium will start at a minimum of \$1,000 (could be more). If you decide the umbrella policy on a blanket basis is not affordable or necessary, the individual societies could look for individual umbrella policies through a local agency." At this time, it seems that an umbrella policy for \$5 million would best suit the needs of the societies that need more than what we currently offer.

Judging Accreditation

Bob Schroeder reports the board approved the printing of a booklet, "ADS Guidelines for Team Leaders." The booklets are to be given to all accredited and senior judges

and have been distributed to all judging chairs for conferences/societies, so they could distribute them to the judges. As candidates move to the accredited judging level, they will be given the booklet along with the certificate and pin. There was some concern voiced to Bob that the booklet was taken from the one done by the Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference. He clarified that the PNDC was contacted and asked if the ADS could use their booklet and was given permission to do so. A Thank you is provided to the PNDC on the booklet. It was greatly appreciated to be allowed to use their guide in putting together one for the ADS.

Membership

Alan Fisher reports about one month ago membership was about 100 below the membership for 2016. 2017 memberships have been coming in slowly but steadily and much of that shortfall has been picked up. As of September 1, new memberships for 2017 were closed and all new memberships are now for 2018. This is consistent with what has been done in the past and what is done with most societies throughout most of North America. Because membership numbers are still changing almost daily, Alan will have a final total in time for the deadline for the December Bulletin. Alan states he has been ADS Membership Chair since 1992 and he no longer has the energy or time to commit to this job at the level the ADS deserves. He has promised to work on a transition for a year or until the new membership chair no longer needs his assistance. Elva Sellens, Douglas County Dahlia Society, is considering taking on the Membership Chair. She will consult with Don Harry and Alan regarding taking on this chair position.

National Exhibition

Art Haskins reports he has had a preliminary interest in a 2022 show date, but nothing is finalized yet. That leaves 2021 as the next available date for a National Show. Next year's show, 2018, is in Philadelphia, 2019 is Michigan and 2020 is in the Northwest.

New Society Coordinator

Rosemary Freeman reports she recently sent our "Welcome to the ADS" certificates to our newest societies, New England Dahlia Society, Dahlia Society of New Brunswick and Maine Dahlia Society. Certificates were signed by the ADS President, ADS Secretary and the New Society Coordinator. Please welcome them and help them by your participation in their efforts. There have been no additional requests for help in starting a new society. I plan to review and update our New Society booklet soon. Please let me know if you have any ideas or suggestions to help a struggling club that I can add to our booklet. I'd like to thank those ADS Reps who mentioned what helped them to gain and retain new and existing members in the last ADS Bulletin through their Society reports, as it was quite helpful.

Photography

Martin Kral reports the rules and forms for the 2018 Photo Contest were published in the June ADS Bulletin. There has been no further development.

Policy

Ron Miner reports an updated version of the Policy Manual will be available for review on the website after the approval of the change in the bylaws at the Annual Meeting. The Scheetz-Chuey Charitable Foundation donated \$805,000 to the Virus Fund. That donation, in addition to an earlier donation by the Foundation and grants from the ADS

and Evie Gullikson, serve as the basis for creation of the Carl F. and James J. Chuey Chair for Dahlia Research and Development at WSU. In addition, the funds will support the creation of a Dahlia Resource Center that will serve as the vehicle to translate and transfer the broad agricultural technology available at WSU to ADS dahlia growers around the world. Professor Hanu Pappu will hold the Chuey Dahlia Research & Development Chair and be responsible for the Resource Center. Professor Pappu spoke briefly about his plans for future work at the seminar Saturday afternoon.

Public Relations

Lois Ann Helgeson reports if any society is interested in obtaining ADS postcards, there is an automatic \$5 savings when there is no shipping. The packages of 100 are \$15 at the National Show instead of \$20.

Research and Education

Kristine Albrecht reports the Genome Project has raised \$37,000 to date; the goal was \$30,000. Dr. Walbot plans to make two trips to Mexico to gather species dahlias, using an USDA permit. She has located two different locations and will collect two to nine different species dahlias and one non-species, Edna C. The goal is to determine how related the modern-day dahlia is to the species dahlia. Dr. Pappu submitted the National Science Foundation grant in April 2017. Dr. Walbot and Dr. Saar also worked on the grant and we expect to hear from the NSF by the end of October. Here is the timeline for the ADS Genome Project:

- September-October 2017: Seed collection in Mexico by Dr. Walbot and Rodolfo Dirzo. Dr. Saar will supply her field notes of locations where she has collected species dahlia seeds in the past.
- September-October 2017: Dr. Walbot will fly to Mexico and bring home the collected species dahlia seeds and take herbarium samples, using USDA permit.
- November 2017: Seeds will be grown out and root samples will be taken and sent to the sequencing lab.
- December 2017: Sequencing results will be back from the lab.
- December 2017: If the NSF Grant is not awarded for the Genome Project, initial sequenced data will go into Genbank.
- January 2018: If the NSF Grant is not awarded, the American Dahlia Society will begin a second long-term fundraising campaign (\$15,000 to 20,000) to bring the initial sequence to final assembly. Possibly, at the same time, Dr. Pappu will resubmit a new, revised NSF Grant proposal based on the recommendations of the readers of the initial NSF Grant proposal

Special Awards

Jerry Landerholm reports he has replenished the supply of medals so will be good for a few more year. Five silver medals were given out since the last National Show. They were given to the following persons:

- E. H. "Ted" Collins, United Kingdom
- Roger Stevens, Wisconsin Dahlia Society
- Charles Craig, Wisconsin Dahlia Society

- Dan Kaplan, Central States Dahlia Society
- Frank Campise, Central States Dahlia Society

The ADS Gold Medal was presented to Rosemary Zackavich, General Secretary for the ADS in the 80s and 90s. Four special ADS medals were given to local members for their support of this National Show. The President's Award was presented to John Thiermann for maintaining contact with dahlia hybridizers around the world and integrating people from dahlia societies all over the world with the American Dahlia Society.

Trial Garden

Ron Miner reports the activity at the trial gardens is at its peak for most of the locations. Piper Creek is into their frost season already, so their judging is largely complete. Good progress is being made in all the gardens. The Mid-Atlantic garden is garnering a lot of attention through its presence on the NCDS Facebook page. The deadline for completion of judging and distribution of the results to the co-chairs is about one month away. Ron has appointed Jerry Ziert as a third co-chair for the Trial Garden Committee.

Website

Sharon Swaney reports she continues to update the current website to keep the information current, but all organizational and design effort is being put into a rewrite of the site. Our current site is on a very outdated and not popular platform. After discussing the issue with our hosting provider and seeking advice/support from some ADS Execs, I decided to move the site to the very industry popular WordPress (WP) platform. Advantages to the move include:

- Because of WP's popularity, there are thousands of "plugins" (free or cheap) available to enhance functionality.
- WP is a mature platform and there's a large support community if I need help with something.
- If I get run over by a truck, you should be able to find a WP expert easily.
- If we ever want/need to move the hosting, there are lots of WP hosting providers.
- WP uses "themes" for the base design and I have chosen a theme that is mobile optimized; this is very important for all the smart phones and tablets. However, the archival nature of much of our site will never lend itself to reading on a phone.
- The update process for WP is usually simple so hopefully we won't end up where are now again in a few years, though there is always something new and better in cyberspace. The architecture of WP does allow updating the design (themes) separately from the data, which would help if we need to do a major cosmetic update someday (though I am skeptical that it is as easy as everyone says).

Our hosting provider has set up a test environment, free of charge, for me to enable the migration. They wholeheartedly support our moving to WP. This will be about a 200-300-hour endeavor. I am hoping to be done by January. If anyone has any comments or suggestions for the new site, feel free to contact me. Phase one will be to get the existing information moved to, and in some cases, reorganized on the new site. Then I will turn to enhancements, which I expect to be easier on the new platform. I will appreciate your help as the process moves forward in the form of answering questions

and providing historical enlightenment regarding information on our site, most often as a request from one of the ADS Rep Coordinators. She may also be asking some of you to proofread sections of information that pertain to your areas of involvement. I am also desperate for pictures. If you are a good photographer, please send me copyright-free pictures of dahlias, dahlia gardens, events. And know that I may crop pictures to fit certain requirements. The Facebook page continues to be popular. Sharon has been providing technical support to Harry as he revives the e-mail newsletter in a somewhat different format. Sharon continues to try to get information from all societies regarding their tuber sale and show information to put on the website. She would like to do monthly cover stories on the website and is asking for ideas. These could be stories about people, events, etc. This month will be the Trial Gardens. Sharon states we still need pictures for the Online Classification Guide. Information about how to submit pictures is included in a link at the bottom of the home page for the Online Classification Guide and at the top of the Members Only page.

ADS Reps Coordinators

Ken Jensen reports his efforts have been to make the virus project available to Canadian participants. After numerous discussions with Dr. Pappu and Ron Miner, they have been able to make participation by our Canadian members possible. They have just sent their first shipment of samples to WSU. Thanks to all for their efforts to make this possible for our Canadian members. For those who are interested in knowing how to ship tubers to/from Canada, he wrote an article on this subject, which is in the September Bulletin.

Mark Oldenkamp reports he continues to send emails to ADS Reps and Presidents as requested. He sent several on behalf of the Central States Dahlia Society promoting the National Show. Mark was instrumental in leading the board members through a bylaw review process with significant help from Brad Freeman, which will be presented for adoption at this meeting. Mark has been in contact with our insurance coordinator regarding some requests for insurance options beyond what we currently offer. The Insurance Coordinator reported on this issue in her report. Mark is a participant in the discussion regarding the insurance fund surplus and options going forward.

Virus Update

Ron Miner reports the key activity underway is the free analysis for virus in "G1" samples by Professor Hanu Pappu at Washington State University. Free testing of those samples is made possible by the cooperation of Professor Pappu and the generosity of Mr. Jim Chuey. G1 plants are the offspring (tubers, cuttings) of plants that were analyzed in 2016 and in which no virus was detected. Some of those 2017 plants will inevitably be reinfected with virus by insects or by handling in the greenhouse or garden. We anticipate, however, that no virus will be detected in a large portion of those G1 samples this year. The virus team, Brad Freeman, Nick Weber, Jerry Moreno, Linda Taylor and Ron Miner, continue to work with Professor Pappu in the development and analysis of many virus experiments in our gardens. We anticipate supporting future research and development efforts to resolve virus problems in dahlias at WSU.

BYLAWS

Mark Oldenkamp went over the revised Organizational Chart. This provides an Executive Committee that will have the capacity to conduct business between board meetings, with a report back to the full board. It also creates a structure so that those in

a Vice-President role have a connection, over time, with the various work areas of the ADS Board. The last update to the bylaws was done in 2008. There were several items that needed to be cleaned up, which was done before bringing the information in the bylaws to match the Organizational Chart. The proposed changes were brought to the Executive Board in April 2017 and they voted to approve the changes. All changes, including the Organizational Chart adhere to the rules of New York State, which is where we are incorporated. One additional change is that under Judges Accreditation the Judges Accreditation Chair will review the list of Candidate, Accredited, Senior and Honorary Senior Judges. This was an oversight at the time of the meeting. In April, there was discussion to change the number of members to be a participating society with the ADS from ten to six. It was done as the board did not want the number of members to be an impediment to new societies. Alan Fisher does not agree that the number should be reduced. Since it was reduced from 15 to 10 about 20 years ago, he cannot recall this being an impediment to any society. He feels that six might not be a large enough number for a society to effectively function. After discussion, **Bob Schroeder moved and Ron Miner seconded to approve the bylaws as written, with a minimum of six members for a participating society. Alan Fisher moved and Ken Walton seconded to remove the minimum of six members and keep it at the 10 members. Alan's amended motion was approved with 17 voting for and 11 against. A vote was then taken on approving the bylaws with all changes except for the change in the number of members for a participating society. This motion passed unanimously.** This approves the bylaws as published in the June Bulletin, with removal of the membership number amendment.

Mark Oldenkamp moved and Harry Rissetto seconded to approve an honorarium for the Secretary and Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously.

Don Dramstad announced the next conference call for the ADS Governing Board will be November 12 at 4:00 pm Eastern Standard Time.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am Central Daylight Time.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder
ADS Secretary