

**American Dahlia Society
Minutes – Board Meeting
February 11, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 pm EST by President Don Dramstad.

Present

Board members present were: Don Dramstad, Mac Boyer, Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Ken Jensen, Terry Schroeder, Harry Risetto, Ron Miner, Charles Miehms, Lou Paradise, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Claudia Biggs, Cheryl Shores, Bob Schroeder, Alan Fisher, Elva Sellens, Art Haskins, Rosemary Freeman, Nick Weber, Jerry Landerholm, Sharon Swaney, Kristine Albrecht, Wayne and Eleanor Shantz.

Minutes

Art Haskins moved, and Mark Oldenkamp seconded to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2018 Board Meeting, as presented. The motion passed.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President

Don Dramstad asked for any remembrances. Mid Island Dahlia Society member, Bill Allgeier passed away in December. John Armstrong, a large grower and exhibitor with the Dahlia Society of New Brunswick, passed away at the end of January. Two Vancouver and Fraser Valley Dahlia Society members, Ralph Kuiper and Roy Campbell passed away in November. Ralph was instrumental in starting the Fraser Valley Dahlia Society in the late 90s.

Treasurer

Mac Boyer submitted the following report. As of February 1, 2018, there is \$83,182.332 in the Ameriprise account, with \$74,900.00 restricted. There is \$69,884.72 in the Vanguard account, with no restrictions. There is \$68,803.59 in the Lake City Bank, with \$46,299.02 restricted/dedicated. By comparison, on January 20, 2017, there was \$57,520.66 in the Lake City account. The 2017 year-end funds as reported in the March Bulletin is \$211,475.00. All invoices and requests for reimbursement have been paid, including December Bulletin printing and mailing costs. Total funds in all accounts, as of February 1, 2018 is \$221,870.63, about \$1,000 more than last year at this time. There has been an additional \$2,500 deposited in the Lake City account since February 1. **Harry Risetto moved, and Alan Fisher seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. The motion passed.**

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Mid Atlantic Conference

Charles Miehms reports the region has had a fairly cold winter so far. We can always hope that destroys some pests. National Capital Dahlia Society will be holding several tuber sales this spring. The sales will be starting with our March meeting and the monthly meetings thereafter until June, as well as selling at a few outside events. Greater Philadelphia DS is looking forward to the ADS National Show this September. Preparations continue with Longwood Gardens. I have not heard any definite plans but GPDS generally holds two tuber sales each spring. Gettysburg Dahlia is holding a show organizational meeting on February 10. They will have a tuber sale in cooperation with the annual daffodil show in Chambersburg, PA. Their show will be Aug 30 thru Sept 1 in Biglerville, PA.

Midwest Dahlia Conference

Randy Foith reports there has been snow, snow everywhere! The Dahlia Society of Ohio has been hard at work planning for the 2018 Midwest Show in Strongsville, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland. The venue will be at the Holiday Inn in Strongsville. We lost one of our oldest and dearest societies here in East Liverpool, Ohio. A too usual story of a declining and aging membership. Many of the members have already joined the Mahoning Valley Dahlia Society. Their President, Gene Toot, has been a stalwart at the age of 88; so hard to replace these long-standing commitments! MVDS welcomes he and other members from the ELDS.

North Atlantic Conference

Ed Bonci reports not much activity to report around the North Atlantic Dahlia Conference. Most clubs are thinking ahead to tuber sales and planning judging seminars. The NADC Spring Dinner and meeting will be held on April 15 in Waterbury, CT; details will be forthcoming. Long time MIDS member Bill Allgeier passed away recently after a long illness. Bill was very active in both societies on Long Island, as past President, Sr. Judge, Trial Garden director, exhibitor and mentor. We extend our sympathies to his wife Mary Lou and the rest of his family.

Pacific Northwest Conference

Mark Oldenkamp reports it has been a mild winter. There is a lot of planning for tuber sales, trading for new varieties and anticipation for the arrival of orders of new varieties. I have spoken with some that have already been rooting some cuttings. Tuber sale dates are scheduled. The Canby trial garden is fully reserved for 2018 with 30 entries. There have been some discussions about summer judging training. We anticipate having some members attend the National Show in Philadelphia in September.

Pacific Southwest Conference

Mark Oldenkamp reported for John Morton. They will have their Conference meeting next weekend and are hosting the ADS Spring Planning meeting in San Jose in April.

Southern States Conference

Ray Phillips reports everything has been quiet this winter with several members visiting others to help large growers harvest their tubers. The help was great, but the fellowship and fun were greater. Plans are not finalized for Southern States shows this year as Tennessee date coincides with the national show in Philadelphia, and all SS judges have plans to attend. No judges equal no show, so we may seek an alternate date if possible, but NC is the week before, GA is the next weekend, and AL is the 1st weekend in October. We will wait and see. I fear for the tubers mulched in for this winter as temperatures have been below normal most of January; spring will tell the story.

Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers

Brad Freeman reports the Governing Board of the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers (Federation) held its winter meeting February 10 in Bellevue, Washington. Our Spring and Summer Workshops and Judging Classes are set for the year; dates and locations can be found on the Federation website at <http://www.nwdahlia.org/>. The 2018 Dahlia Annual and Combined Show Schedule is being assembled at this time and will be available for all Federation members at the Spring Workshop in March. One change for this year is that the Puget Sound Dahlia Association and the Seattle Dahlia Society will hold a combined dahlia show in August. Other items discussed at the Board meeting included:

2019 Flower of the Year was selected to be AC Ben. Board elections will be done at the Annual Meeting with Dick Parshall Chairing the Nominating Committee. There was discussion regarding getting more Federation clubs involved with the Tacoma Trial Garden in the ongoing

maintenance of the garden. In the Puget Sound region, it is getting very hard to find low cost venues for our events/workshops. Rosemary Freeman and Colin Walker will work on selecting venues and scheduling our events in the upcoming years. The Junior Sections at the Federation shows are growing. To give our Junior growers additional opportunities to exhibit the dahlias they grow several new Classes have been added to the Junior Section starting this year; the clerk sheets need to be revised to reflect those additional classes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advertising

This position is currently vacant, and they are looking for someone willing and able to fill the position. In the March Bulletin, there are six advertisers: South Sound Dahlia Society, Dahlia Dandies, Lobaugh's Dahlias, McCall Dahlias, Endless Summer Farm and Swan Island Dahlias.

Classification

Lou reports they had computer problems during the worst possible time, during the making of the CHD. As a result, we needed to rebuild the database and hopefully got it right. However, there will be quite a few corrections to the 2018 CHD that will appear in the June *Bulletin*. What we did not realize is that the computer problems also affected the calculations for the cream of the crop. So, we are working on correcting the COC. We will send the correction to be placed on the web. The COC that will appear in the March *Bulletin* (and on the web right now) will be incomplete and we will try and get it for the June *Bulletin*. He is almost finished correcting the Court of Honor and will be getting that to Sharon shortly to be put on the website. There have been requests for only 17 cultivars for reclassification for the 2018 growing season. I'm sure a few more will filter in before I send the list to the Classification Committee members in July.

Editor

Linda reports she continues to work toward her goal of having The Bulletin in the hands of members by the first week of the month (preferably the first day). Toward that end, I sent everything I had to Dave Hines at Parrot Press on January 25. He indicated that this would give him time for set up, layout, get the Membership list, have mailing labels printed, work with the mailing house and get books to the Post Office in time for early March delivery. She also asked him to make several changes on the ADS Officers pages and regular content on page 5, including adding the following disclaimer: **Disclaimer:** Advertisements in the ADS Bulletin are in no way to be construed as endorsement of the goods or services offered. The ADS is not responsible for the products or practices of any advertiser in The Bulletin or on our website, www.dahlia.org. Linda also provided a list of The Bulletin content for March 2018. For the June *Bulletin*, Linda has received permission from Rosemary to reprint her article, "Hey Gang, We're Putting on a Show."

Finance

Harry Risetto reports The ADS has adequate available cash and reserves to cover its anticipated expenses. As of 02/01/18 there is \$78,167.04 available in our account; this includes the receipt of some 2018 memberships. The Committee continues to discuss the Insurance reserve of \$6,675. The Insurance committee is continuing to work with the carrier to secure extra insurance for Societies that are required to carry excess coverage for meeting and show sites. Mark will send a request to ADS reps to get the names of societies that have venues that require additional insurance coverage. The Committee decided to defer establishment of an endowment fund until it receives gift(s) or bequest(s) of \$500,000.00 or greater. Current cash operating balances are needed for anticipated expenses and planned or new activities. The current fund for new research is less than \$10,000 and insufficient to fund a new external

research project. We recommend that the ADS continue coordination with Washington State University. We are awaiting final word on the costs of the first phase of the Genome Project. The ADS account has approximately \$34,000 available for the Genome Project.

Garden Dahlias

Alan Fisher has agreed to chair the Garden Dahlia committee. He sent an article for the March *Bulletin* and anticipates having an article in each issue of the *Bulletin*. Sharon stated there are several pages on the website that are out of date. Alan agreed to work on updating those, once he finalizes the labels for the March *Bulletin*.

Image Library

Claudia Biggs reports the library continues to be busy mailing out copies of the 2018 ADS New Introductions. Claudia has received about 26 requests so far. She will start to work on the 2017 Fabulous Fifty and 2017 ADS Photo Contest in a few days.

Insurance

Cheryl Shores reports they are currently working on renewing our current insurance policy and looking into possibly getting an additional umbrella policy. One of the societies which has a venue that has requested more insurance coverage than we currently have sent information from the venue requesting that, which she forwarded to the insurance carrier. She continues to cc Mark and Harry on all correspondence regarding the additional coverage. She has received requests for insurance from eleven societies so far. Requests are coming in fast and furious right now. It was asked to have a request sent to the Reps asking those who have venues that require additional insurance to send information to Cheryl.

Judging Accreditation

Bob Schroeder reports requests have been sent to all society/conference judging chairs to update the judging information for the 2018 Judging Roster. It was requested of all judging chairs to ensure information concerning judging status, home addresses, phone numbers and email addresses are correct. To ensure meeting the deadline for printing with the June Bulletin, all updates must be received no later than April 1st.

Membership

Elva Sellens reports she and Alan have been processing as fast as possible. Alan's goal is to send the address labels for the March issue next week. Elva is unable to use the program that Alan has used for membership but is getting Microsoft Access through Tech Soup for a non-profit price. She should be ready to totally take over membership, once the address list is completed for the March mailing.

National Exhibition

Art Haskins reports he sent out information on hosting a National Show to a society, but it is very preliminary at this time. He is wanting to finalize the 2022 show and still has the 2021 date open. He has a couple of societies inquiring about National Shows, but no dates requested.

New Society Coordinator

Rosemary Freeman reports she has had no new developments to share at this time. There is a gentleman in Colorado Springs who is interested. He is on his own, so it may be a while before he gets going. She will be sending him information. Don has a possible contact in Central Florida who may be interested in starting a society. He will connect with the person and get them in contact with Rosemary

Photography

Martin Kral reports he had about 200 images from 17 photographers to evaluate. The big winner this year once again was ace photographer Bill Meyer. Not far behind, though, was Colin Walker, who submitted some superb photos in all categories. It is surprising when some veteran exhibitors and excellent photographers step away from our contest, some never to return. This year was much improved over the last two competitions, for new faces appeared in the winners' circle. Several of them are photography stand-outs, so they should be encouraged to participate in the future. There were some disqualifications, due to not following instructions. Reading the entry rules will need to be emphasized to avoid such mishaps. The judges this time included a just-retired Seattle Times journalist (who also belongs to a Seattle camera club) and a long-time graphic designer/photographer. We all had slightly different perspectives on the best photo in each category, but there was general agreement on the top photos. The rankings illustrated our personal likes, and that is where we had to compromise. Most of the entries came by CD in the mail. Submission by email was hampered but were accepted on Martin's regular email. In the future I am shifting this online submission to Dropbox to assure everyone's ability to submit material in a timely and foolproof manner. Instructions for this (and entry form with rules for the 2018 contest) will appear in the June Bulletin.

Policy

Ron Miner reports the Policy Manual was updated and posted in December. He did receive some feedback. If you haven't already done so, please review your area of responsibility and provide appropriate edits.

Research and Education

Nick Weber reports he has been working with Ron Miner and the others on the virus committee. They have received most of the data from the virus samples. A report on the findings has been prepared by Dr. Pappu for the March *Bulletin*. This year there were 1665 samples with about half from G1 plants. About 38% of the G1 showed virus, primarily tobacco streak virus and impatiens necrotic spot virus. There was a higher incidence of impatiens necrotic spot virus, which had been very low previously and no detection of dahlia mosaic virus. They are working on how to proceed with testing for the 2018 season.

Special Awards

Jerry Landerholm reports the 2017 Derrill Hart, Lynn Dudley, Evie Gullikson and Stanley Johnson medals have been delivered to various parts of the country and will be presented by ADS officers. Many thanks extended to the ADS people who will make these presentations more special (and fun) than simply having the winners receive medals in the mail. We are up-to-date with our supply of medals and there is no immediate need to tap the treasury for replacements. The standard ADS Medal with the eagle on the front face is given to our affiliated/participating societies annually. We also have a gold-plated version that we award for special reasons. The medal has been renamed the ADS Commemorative Medal to not be confused with other ADS medals. Our latest ADS Policy Manual update includes the following: "The ADS Commemorative Medal - Is typically given to people in recognition of special contributions directed to ADS activities." It may also be given to foreign societies for their use as awards at shows and other events as they deem appropriate. This medal may also occasionally be used as a promotional piece. Please notify Special Awards with requests for these medals. For example, if an ADS person is traveling abroad and will be in contact with local dahlia people, we may consider giving them, or the societies they represent, a modest supply without restriction of use with the idea to give greater visibility to, and regard for, the American Dahlia Society.

Trial Garden

Ron Miner reports the Trial Garden Directors and their gardens are enjoying a break. We did update the TG rules to correct typos and reflect current practices. The updated version was generated for the new website and is now also available on the old website.

Virus Update

Ron Miner reports a total of 1665 dahlia leaf samples were tested in the 2017 season. The turnaround time on the testing were a lot longer than anticipated at least in part because of the large number of samples. The WSU lab also had trouble with the quality of some of the critical reagents for the tests, making retesting necessary on a large group of samples. The results were completed in time to allow us to provide a summary article for the March Bulletin. With the cooperation and support of Professor Pappu at WSU and the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation, testing of G1 plants (grown from tubers that came from virus-free plants in 2016) were done free of charge in 2017. That led to the submission of 706 G1 samples. We were disappointed that 38% of those samples were found to be positive for virus. Infection by Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV) for the first-time accounts for a substantial portion of the larger than anticipated virus rate in the G1 samples. The quality of the foliage was a good indicator for virus in the G1 samples; 92% of the G1 plants with poor foliage were positive for virus. Professor Pappu has provided an article for the March Bulletin on controlling thrips. That insect is the one responsible for spreading INSV and two other viruses. The rate of infection in plants that had not been previously tested was 53%, substantially higher than that for the G1 plants. Tubers from a few plants that tested positive for virus in 2016 were grown in two test gardens. Almost all of them also tested positive in 2017. At least one supplier tested many of their plants for virus last season and removed virused plants from their stock. We hope that example will encourage other suppliers to clean up their stock. The virus team (Brad Freeman, Nick Weber, Jerry Moreno, Linda Taylor, and Ron Miner) is currently working with Professor Pappu on achieving a better understanding of the 2017 results and on an approach for effective analyses in 2018.

Genome Sequencing

Kristine Albrecht reports Dr. Walbot has recently inventoried all the species dahlia seeds she collected in Mexico in October 2107. She has received Edna C and Juanita tubers and is currently warming these up. She is waiting to contact Novogene (the company that will be sequencing the DNA material) until both the seed and tuber samples are close to ready. At that time, we will get a bid as to the exact cost of the sequencing. The Genome account has \$34,000 to use for sequencing. Genome Committee Members: Kristine Albrecht, Don Dramstad, Harry Risetto, Mac Boyer, Nick Weber, Ron Miner, Martin Karl, and Brad Freeman.

Website

Sharon Swaney reports she continues to update the current ADS website to keep it as accurate as possible, but all website energy is being channeled into the new site. We didn't meet my goal of a January release, but we are getting close. I say "we" because the website team has a new member. Chris Buswell from the Santa Cruz Society has joined the team. He is a professional web designer with a strong graphics background. His background is a real boon to the team because graphics is my weak suit. To date, we have moved over 160 pages to the new platform (WordPress) along with the required pictures and documents. As previously discussed, the new platform offers:

- industry popularity, with thousands of "plugins" (free or cheap) available to enhance functionality
- a mature platform with a large support community
- availability of many WordPress experts (in case Chris and I both get run over by a truck)
- many hosting provider options

- themes (used for the base design) which are mobile optimized
- a (usually) simple update process
- and more...

Thanks to all who have offered information, opinions, and proofreading during this process; and, thanks in advance to those who will be offering the same as we conclude phase one of this effort and get the site published on the new platform. Even after the new site is published there will still be plenty of work to continue “prettying up” the site and keeping the information updated. There will likely be some downtime when the new site is published. Our hosting provider, Servlet and its new owner, have been very accommodating during this process. Linda Holmes-Cook reports that our Facebook Group continues to grow and help other dahlias growers learn about so many aspects of dahlia growing and exhibiting. We now have 2278 members. The most activity lately has been regarding a photo array posted by Colin Walker (Kelsey hybridizer), showing how to do cuttings. It was excellent, and Colin was able to answer questions, and follow up on this post. The ADS FB Group has become a forum and learning space for dahlia growers of all abilities and experience.

ADS Representatives

Ken Jensen reports a couple clubs in Canada have expressed interest in sending leaf samples for testing, but were not successful in 2017, due to a delay at Sea-Tac International airport. They will try again in 2018. Ken has done some research on the policy updates and has some thoughts on changes; Ron encouraged Ken to send those to him.

Mark Oldenkamp reports he does not feel his Outlook-based system for contacting representatives will be useful to others who take over that task. He is looking into a system called “Mail Chimp.” Sharon suggested he also look at “Constant Contact” as well since we already have an account with them. Mark will continue to investigate.

OLD BUSINESS

Insurance Contingency Fund

Harry Risetto moved, and Alan Fisher seconded to authorize draw down of the insurance contingency reserve to \$2,000. The ADS Reps and Presidents of participating societies will be notified by email of their shares and will have 90 days to request a check. In the absence of a response, their allocated portions of the reserve will be transferred to the Genome account. The motion passed. It was clarified there is about \$6675 in the insurance contingency account and this will distribute approximately \$4675 to participating societies and retain \$2000 in the insurance contingency fund.

NEW BUSINESS

Nomination Committee

Jerry Landerholm reported the ADS Executive Board approved Ron Miner, Mark Oldenkamp and Jerry Landerholm to serve on the nominations committee for the forthcoming 2018 election of ADS officers. Jerry was asked to serve as committee chair. One of Jerry's responsibilities was to appoint two additional members to the committee. Accepting these appointments were Bob Schroeder and Charles Miehm. The committee of five have since collaborated and they expect to produce a slate of officers to be included on the ballot which will be published in the June 2018 Bulletin. The chair would like to thank the four other committee members for their active and thoughtful participation in producing a slate that should serve the ADS well for the two years following the election. The committee also thanks the nominees who have agreed to share their expertise and their inclination to make the ADS the best it can be.

Spring Planning

The Spring Planning meeting is set for April 20 to 22. The tentative schedule will be:

- Friday evening – Board/Business meeting
- Saturday morning – Dr. Walbot – Genome Project
- Saturday afternoon – Dr. Pappu or Ron Miner – Virus
- Saturday afternoon – Discussion regarding judging distinction

There were two additions proposed for the Spring Planning agenda:

1. Increase allocation from ADS for the National Show
2. Discussion regarding International membership

Harry Rissetto moved, and Alan Fisher seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 pm EST.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder
ADS Secretary