

**American Dahlia Society  
Minutes – Board Meeting  
April 20, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm PDT by President Don Dramstad.

**Present**

Board members present were: Don Dramstad, Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Ken Jensen, Terry Schroeder, Wayne Shantz, Harry Risetto, Ron Miner, John Morton, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Alan Fisher, Bob Schroeder, Elva Sellens, Rosemary Freeman, Nick Weber, Jerry Landerholm, Sharon Swaney, Kristine Albrecht, Marian Landerholm, Rob Swaney and Eleanor Shantz.

**Minutes**

**One correction was noted in the February 2018 minutes that in Ray Phillips' report the location for the National Show should be changed from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2018 Board Meeting, as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.**

**OFFICERS REPORTS**

**President**

Don Dramstad asked for any remembrances. Former owner of Alpen Gardens and Founder of the Montana Dahlia Society, Bill McClaren passed away in mid-March. National Capital Dahlia Society member, Carol Morgan passed away and Portland Dahlia Society member and originator of Mingus dahlias, Phil Mingus passed away.

**Treasurer**

Mac Boyer submitted the following report. Current Lake City Bank balance is \$85,430.42. The Ameriprise account balance is \$80,588.55 and the Vanguard account is \$69,112.28. The total ADS funds are \$235,131.25. For 2018, there has been \$1,200.00 insurance checks received to date. An insurance contingency fund of \$129 was made to West Michigan DS. Greater Columbus DS contributed \$65.00 insurance contingency refund to the Genome Project. No additional insurance contingency refund action to date. \$1,350.00 in contributions from individuals have been sent to Greater Philadelphia DS for the National Show.

**Harry Risetto moved, and Alan Fisher seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. The motion passed.**

**Trustees**

Harry Risetto reports the financial situation of the ADS is stable, at least partially due to Mac Boyer's good governance over the last many years. They will put the donation envelope in the September Bulletin again this year. Independent funding is still necessary in order to take on any large special projects.

**REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS**

**Midwest Dahlia Conference**

Randy Foith reports all the member societies have their tuber sales/auctions in full swing at this time, with buyers looking for the "Big Ones" first. The camaraderie that goes along with all this activity is part of the glue that holds us together. It's always those special friendships we make

as we travel down Dahlia Avenue that puts the smile of sunshine on our faces. The weather here has been anything but pleasant. Much more snow than any of us can endure for much longer, leaving the gardens to idle a little longer than we hoped for! The Midwest DC Spring Meeting and Plant Auction in Elkhart, Indiana on June 2nd will hopefully bring a lot of Midwest growers to attendance. The program scheduled for the day will consist of a panel of very good Midwest Dahlia Growers sharing and giving advice on growing, fertilization, propagation, etc. along with their tried and true ways to show our beautiful "DAHLIAS!"! After lunch there will be the Plant Auction. All proceeds go to the Dahlia Society of Ohio, hosting society for the 2018 Midwest Show in Strongsville, Ohio on Sept. 7, 8, and 9. The Elkhart DS will host the Picnic at the Bonneville TG again this August 11th. Much judging will be in motion at this time! It was commented that the St. Louis DS may be struggling.

### **North Atlantic Conference**

Ed Bonci reports The NADC has seen all weather extremes this Spring, from cold to heat to snow to rain. Members are potting and benching up tubers in anticipation of warmer weather to come. The NADC held its Spring meeting last weekend in Waterbury CT, which was well attended by representatives from most of the NADC societies. Many topics were discussed including judging seminars to be held at the local level. In addition, tuber sales will take place April-June during regularly scheduled society meetings. The Greenwich Dahlia Society will hold a potting workshop at the GEC on Monday April 30; full details are available on the website [www.gecgreenwich.org](http://www.gecgreenwich.org).

### **Pacific Northwest Conference**

Mark Oldenkamp reports they had their annual meeting last weekend and most societies were represented. They talked about recognition, had a tuber auction, and about leadership and the future of the PNDC in terms of a possible course redirection, although the organization is solid. There was discussion about the Trial Garden in Canby, OR regarding ways to get better participation in judging. This year the trial garden is already full. There was discussion regarding Portland DS considering hosting a national show in 2023.

### **Pacific Southwest Conference**

John Morton reports that they had their annual conference in February, which has gone from a two to one-day event. There was talk of the dwindling societies in their region. They have gone from a high of sixteen societies down to 5 now and two that are uncertain for the future. The San Diego plans to be active for at least one more year; the John Stowell DS has leadership with health and aging issues and uncertain how long they will be able to sustain. The San Francisco, Monterey Bay and San Leandro DS are all doing well. The PNDC had to raise dues to cover their conference bills. There is some interest in growing dahlias in the Morro Bay area, but unsure of leadership at this time. It is a possible new society in the future.

### **Southern States Conference**

The Southern States are busy preparing for our spring tuber sales. The Tennessee society will host its sale at the Chattanooga Market on the 28th of April, Georgia and Carolinas have their sales planned as well, but Alabama will forgo a sale this year. They are planning a judges training session on the 21st of August at the Phillips home in Soddy Daisy, TN. We look forward to seeing all our fellow Southern States judges here. Spring preparation of gardens and greenhouses are in full swing. Each of us is looking forward to trying new ideas about dahlia growing.

## **Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers**

Brad Freeman reports they are having a cool and wet spring, so our outside dahlia garden activities are limited. Some have cuttings and seedlings growing so they have some green to enjoy. The local clubs and societies are working their tuber sales which, for most, are their primary fund-raising activity for the year. The tuber sales are a great opportunity to interact with the public and provide information about our favorite flower. In the process the clubs and societies may gain a few new members. The Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers had their annual Spring Workshop in March. The Workshop featured two educational sessions – one on public speaking and one on soil testing. An awards ceremony was held to present the Hart, Dudley and Gullikson medals won by Federation hybridizers. A PowerPoint presentation was used to provide information about each medal and to highlight the winning cultivars. At the award ceremony, certificates and pins were given to dahlia judges who have completed the next step in their journey to Senior Judge. In addition, Federation Hall of Fame plaques were presented to the 2017 Inductees: Ken and Marilyn Walton and Brad and Rosemary Freeman. The Spring Workshop features the Jack Crawford Memorial Tuber Auction which is our only fund-raising activity for the year. With our local hybridizers providing the dahlia tubers, it is not uncommon to have new originations sell for forty or fifty dollars. The Federation appreciates the support of our many members.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Advertising**

There is still a need for someone to oversee advertising. Currently, it is managing itself pretty much with Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook overseeing it. An Advertising Chair would allow Linda to concentrate on the Bulletin. Please contact Don Dramstad or Linda.

### **Classification**

Lou reports all reports have been sent to the Bulletin Editor and they are preparing for the show report data for the 2019 CHD. This is a relatively show time of year for us.

### **Editor**

Linda reports the March Bulletin was in the hands of our printer by the beginning of February, allowing plenty of time for layout, proofreading, labeling, sorting and mailing. As a result, some members had it in their hands by early March. I'm happy with this improvement but still would like to have it delivered within the first few days of the month for which it is named. Thank you to all for getting your content to me in a timely manner – that is so helpful! The June Bulletin will feature the Greater Philadelphia DS information on the 2018 National Show at Longwood Gardens. At my request, Rosemary Freeman has also made a few updates to her article on how to put on a dahlia show for this issue; it is a great article, and although it remains as a resource on the website, bears repeating in print every so often. We are also looking forward to printing Harry Waterson's wonderful article on Henrietta Stout, "The Lady of the Dahlias." And a big thank you to Lou Paradise for writing a short piece on the two kinds of reports – Court of Honor and Show Report – that clubs are asked to submit each season. Hopefully this will help a lot of people who are not clear on the two kinds of information we are looking for and how it is used. If there are topics that you would like to see covered in future Bulletins, please let me know. I usually contact people that I know can write about topics that are of general interest. The great article by Colin Walker on open-centered dahlias in the March Bulletin is an example of that. I would like to make sure that The Bulletin is relevant and offers articles of interest to competitive growers as well as recreational growers of dahlias. I think we do a pretty good job of that overall, but we can continue to improve. I appreciate your support in constantly raising the bar for this important benefit of membership. Deadline for the June Bulletin is April 15. At the end

of her first year as Bulletin Editor, Linda's goals are to make the Bulletin as good as it can be and to be in member's hands early in the month for which it is named. Larry Smith, Portland DS and Donna Lane, New England DS have agreed to help with proofing. There has been requests to have more color; Dave states color costs \$275 per page. The issue of color was raised by some local societies as a way the ADS could help local societies. It will be discussed during the planning session on Sunday morning.

### **Finance**

Harry Risetto reports there will be discussion of Mac's retirement as Treasurer of the ADS and a member of the Finance Committee by President Don Dramstad. Mac has been largely responsible for keeping the ADS financially solvent. We all owe him a great debt of gratitude. Mac is in the process of distributing the surplus in accord with the Board's resolution at the February 2018 meeting. 2018 dues are coming in from the societies and individuals. The membership function is in transition from Alan Fisher to Elva Sellens. The ADS needs to operate off this revenue for the rest of the year. There will be a discussion of increasing the contribution to host societies for the National Show. The added expense would not be material. There will be a wrap-up audit of the Society's finances as part of the transition. The contribution envelope in the September Bulletin will continue for another year. Overall, the ADS' financial condition is solid.

### **Garden Dahlias**

Alan Fisher reports there are some things that are not within his expertise, primarily container dahlias and border/dwarf dahlias. Let Alan know if you have ideas of persons to help in these areas. There was a question about continuing the Garden Dahlia of the Year. Alan is willing to work with anyone who is interested in taking on that piece. Typically, the Garden Dahlia is one that is attractive, easy to grow, sometimes good for exhibition; dahlias for garden enjoyment. Alan had an article on garden dahlias in the March Bulletin and coordinated with Linda and Sharon to have it reprinted with large color photos on the new web page. Alan has a PowerPoint presentation almost finished, which will be put on the Internet in the garden dahlia section. Upcoming information includes: material on coping with fertilizer/soil issues, pest control (focusing on products acceptable to organic gardeners), dealing with water issues (too much and too little), etc. For September, I would like to update some of my material on dealing with tubers.

A few considerations:

1. There is a large overlap between dahlias great for exhibition and dahlias great in the garden.
2. Many of us who love to exhibit also enjoy growing some dahlias that we would never consider exhibiting.
3. Taking a judging class enables everyone to enjoy dahlias more, including those who only grow dahlias for fun in the garden.
4. Fear of digging and storing tubers should never be a reason to avoid growing dahlias.
5. Several products acceptable to organic gardeners help with growing better dahlias, such as Rootshield, horticultural oil, plastic bags and free trash disposal for dahlias that one should discard (those with virus or badly infected with spider mites), and neem oil.

### **Image Library**

Claudia Biggs reports she is working on getting images for the 2017 Feb 50. She has had some computer issues, but this is a slow time of year for the Image Library.

## **Insurance**

Cheryl Shores reports the year started off slow for requests for Insurance Certificates. After vacation, I had 14 request or payments. Many societies have used the option of sending their requests directly to the Mercer (the Insurance company), which has been a big help. Next year, we will need to stress to the societies that for each event, that they need insurance certificates, that they will need to complete a separate form. Upon returning from vacation I sent Mac 2 sets of checks that I had received. I currently have one additional check to send. Mark added the insurance refund response deadline is May 8<sup>th</sup>. Any society that has not responded by that date will have their refund sent to the Genome Project. They have been successful in getting insurance doubled to \$2 million coverage, which should address most concerns. After May 8, the results of responders will be compiled and sent to Mac. Those who want refunds will receive a check and the remainder will be put in the account for the Genome Project.

## **Judging Accreditation**

Bob Schroeder reports all clubs/conferences have submitted their annual updates for the 2018 Judging Roster. The 2018 judging information for the roster has been submitted to the Bulletin Editor and the Web Site Coordinator. This year we have fifteen individuals who have entered the judging program as Candidates, twenty-three members who advanced to the Accredited Judges level, and twelve who have moved to the top level of Senior Judge. Thanks to all judging chairs for submitting their information in a timely manner. It is time to order pins for accredited judges. It also is time to update the exams and judging manual. There was discussion about having different individuals with expertise in areas assist with rewriting those sections. Bob wants to determine how many Judging Manuals are still available. There was also a suggestion of doing the manual as a loose leaf and providing updated pages as information is updated.

## **Membership**

Elva Sellens reports Alan sent her the database and she is transferring the information to an Access database. She will be able to do the June labels and then will start on improving the database. There are 166 foreign memberships, with 142 of those in Canada. There are 932 single and 461 family memberships in the US. There is a total of 1542 members in US and foreign. She has Mark and Ken send out email reminders to the ADS Reps/Presidents for local societies.

## **National Exhibition**

The National Capital DS signed a contract for the 2022 National Show with the Sheraton Reston. The dates will be September 22-25, 2022. The 2021 date is still open, and we would like to have it filled soon.

## **New Society Coordinator**

Rosemary Freeman reports she recently talked with the gentleman from Colorado Springs that expressed interest in starting a new dahlia society in his area. Unfortunately, he will have to delay further action until next year. She reminded him that the ADS can wait and will still be here to help when he's ready.

## **Policy**

Ron Miner states there is no new information for policy. Ken Jensen indicated he had some comments on some of the updates done in December and he will send to Ron.

## **Research and Education**

Nick Weber reports the research team has been working with Professor Pappu to review the outcome of the 2017 virus detection program at Washington State University. As with much in science, there are variations in results and that is what was found when the 2017 results were compared to those from 2015 and 2016. Some distinct changes in virus type were found in samples and across regions. We are in the process of designing the program to learn more about the variables involved with our program and look forward to finding answers to the changes observed. At the same time, we are excited about adding the opportunity for dahlia suppliers to test their stock and become more aware of virus issues that are present in dahlias. Part of our work will also involve efforts to address insect vectors that aid in transmission of dahlia viruses. Protocols to help address vector issues are being prepared to put in place for the coming season. The teams are looking forward to building on their experiences to help move our understanding forward. The research on the Dahlia Genome is progressing and work has begun to obtain tissue for the first phase in the genome analysis. The work began last fall with Dr. Walbot collecting seed of several species on two trips to Mexico. This has been followed by sprouting seeds at her laboratory in March. We understand that work is now progressing to obtain the needed tissue for sequencing from the developing plants and progress is being made. We look forward to Dr. Walbot's presentation at our spring meeting to learn about her efforts to obtain the needed tissue samples and information on the expected progression of events for the sequencing project. Efforts to obtain information on activities of our societies on their outreach and education efforts along with the success of those efforts will be requested for the coming season with Board approval. Methods, procedures and information on outcomes will be solicited from societies. Ideas on how this effort will be solicited will be presented at the spring meeting and input solicited on how to proceed. Nick plans to have something in the June Bulletin. There is a possibility of a rewrite of the National Science grant. Dr. Pappu has pledged \$5,000 to the genome project through WSU. Dr. Walbot is working with a post doctor about assembling information from sequencing. He is willing to do the assembly as long as he gets publication rights.

## **Special Awards**

Jerry Landerholm reports the company that has always minted the ADS Gold Medal, Medallic Arts Company, is encountering financial difficulty. Medallic Arts is a subsidiary company of Northwest Territorial Mint. NWTM is in bankruptcy and the case currently is in court. We have a couple of serious concerns. First, though we currently have an adequate supply of ADS Gold Medals, this medal is unique in form. Its rectangular shape with a curved top, while not unusual, is something that many medal manufacturers cannot produce. The presses used by many, if not most, companies will not accept the dies needed to make these medals. If Medallic Arts disappears, finding another company to do the future minting of our medals could be a problem. Secondly and probably of most concern, is the disposition of the dies used to create our medal. There has been discussion by knowledgeable people in the numismatics community that dies held by Medallic Arts could be lost to auction or encounter some other fate. The ADS is far from being the only organization with a stake in this bankruptcy. As this case moves forward, members of the ADS Executive Board are keeping watch on the proceedings and intend to do whatever is practical to secure the interests of the Society. There will be an article in the June *Bulletin* by a numismatic expert regarding the ADS die. Special Awards expects that more information will be provided in future reports to membership.

## Trial Garden

Ron Miner reports Most of our Trial Gardens are at maximum capacity again this year. We are underway for 2018. This will be Marilyn Walton's last year as the Director of the Tacoma Trial Garden. There are two pieces of good news in that retirement. First is that she will continue as a co-chair of the Trial Garden Committee. Second is that she will be working with two great replacements this summer. Terry and Bob Schroeder will be taking over the management of the garden. Marilyn, thanks for your long service! Terry and Bob, thanks for agreeing to take over! The North Central Trial Garden is encountering a difficulty with its Minnesota Arboretum site. Hopefully the issues will be resolved without the need for a change in location! On Sunday, the topic of changing the requirement to introduce a seedling from a minimum of four years to a minimum of three years had been brought up by some hybridizers. Email discussion occurred between Ron and others that have a vested interest in the topic and there appears to be little or no concern about moving the required age for the introduction of new seedlings from four years back to three years. Pros and cons of the change were given. **Ron Miner moved, and Kristine Albrecht seconded to move the minimum age requirement for the introduction of new seedlings from 4 years to 3 years.** The motion carried with a majority in favor and couple of nay votes and a couple abstentions.

## Virus Update

Ron Miner reports Professor Pappu will join the meeting to discuss the project on Saturday afternoon. One key emphasis of the 2018 virus test plan will be free evaluation of vendor stock. Our objective is to help them to improve the quality of the plants and tubers they sell to our members. Once again, the work is made possible by the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation.

## Genome Sequencing

Kristine Albrecht reports Dr. Walbot will be here Saturday to present information about the collection of species dahlias from Mexico and update on the genome sequencing.

## Website

Sharon Swaney reports they released the new ADS Website in early April with only a few glitches. Servlet, our hosting company was tremendously helpful throughout the transition. The new site is reformatted and reorganized, and we are now structured to make maintenance easier and to enable future enhancement. For now, the information is essentially the same as the previous site (we moved and refurbished 250+ pages from the old site). We, and hopefully all the board and members, will continue to clean up and enhance the site. The new structure is more "responsive". In terms of web sites, responsive means that the site perceives what size screen will be receiving the information and acts accordingly. Some of the pages are more left justified and vertical compared to the old site. This also enables information to display well on smaller screens. Not all our pages are appropriate for use on small screens, but we will continue to work on responsiveness where appropriate. We've added more pictures and hope to add even more as time and resources allow. When submitting information for the site, please consider sending pictures. Remember the adage "a picture is worth a thousand words". We still need the info and words, but pictures draw in the public. By far the most major change on the new site is in the organization and navigation of the site. Gone are the right hand, section specific, menu items. You can reach all the major pages of the public site from the main menu located just under the header on every page, utilizing tiers of drop down menus as required. Thanks to everyone who did proofreading and supplied info and pictures. Special thanks to Don Filand who supplied the photo of the big pink (literally Hollyhill Big Pink) flower that now graces our header. Thanks also to Chris Buswell who joined the website team. Chris did the styling for the new site – designing the header, choosing the type fonts, spacing, airy design etc. It was such a help to me to not have to worry about those things while I concentrated on the organization and information. Again, please keep proofreading the information in the areas of

your concern and providing corrections, photos and more info! The next major project for the website team will be replacement of the Online Classification Guide. In much the same way that the old website was becoming impossible to maintain, the Guide is also at risk. The board and members can help by taking pictures for the Guide. Due to strict standards set by the European Union regarding selling online, we will only sell to the US, Canada and Mexico for now. Thanks also to Linda, who keeps the Facebook page relative and interesting. We now have 2355 members in our Facebook group. Linda added her sister, Debbie DeRooy Thune as a co-administrator, so she can help screen posts and approve new members. The group has been very helpful, especially as a place that new growers can get advice from seasoned growers and exhibitors.

### **ADS Representatives**

Ken Jensen reports some Canadian clubs hope to participate in the virus program and be successful in getting their samples to WSU in a timely manner.

Mark Oldenkamp reports he continues to send out emails to ADS Reps and Presidents as requested. He continues to determine the best method to migrate out of Outlook into a more portable design. He currently is looking at Constant Contact and working with Sharon.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Nomination Committee**

Jerry Landerholm reported the Nomination Committee has a slate of Officers for the 2018-2020 term. He thanked the Nomination Committee, Ron, Miner, Mark Oldenkamp, Charles Miehm, and Bob Schroeder. Elva Sellens also served ex officio. The slate is:

President: Brad Freeman

First Vice-President: Mark Oldenkamp

Second Vice-President: Tony Evangelista

Third Vice-President: Ken Jensen

Secretary: Terry Schroeder

Treasurer: Charles Miehm

Trustees: Harry Rissetto (running again), Jerry Landerholm (replacing Wayne Shantz). Ron Miner is a trustee not on the ballot, as his term is not up until 2020.

Norma Boyer is resigning as Historian, so a replacement needs to be found. There was a resolution to thank Norma for all her years of service as Historian for the ADS. Don Dramstad plans to talk with Don and Paula Pinholster, since they are close to the Cherokee Library. The list of Honorary Vice-Presidents was approved by the Board. It was suggested to send information to the Honorary Vice-Presidents prior to the next election, to determine if they continue to want to hold that position.



## NEW BUSINESS

### International Membership

There is a limited number of international/overseas memberships. Currently, international membership costs \$48 per year and you receive material via air mail. It seems there is an interest in the ADS to find a way to bring associate members from around the world. The Associate Member would receive a soft copy of the *Bulletin* and *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias* via email but would not have voting rights in the ADS. It would allow a much better and faster exchange of communication. The thought would be to offer this overseas membership at \$10/year. There is no rush on this and will be discussed further by a study group and brought back to the next board meeting.

### Funding for ADS National Shows and Spring Planning Meetings

There has been some concern that one reason for having difficulties in societies being able to host a national show is financial. For some societies, the cost of putting on a national show is prohibitive, especially if it all falls on one society. It was also brought up that there is usually a cost to hosting a Spring Planning Meeting. There has been a request to have subsidies for both events. Currently, ADS provides \$1400 which includes an award in the name of ADS. Some of the discussion was a motion made by Ken Jensen to do an online dahlia tuber auction. There was no second. No action taken, this is just one of the ideas on how to generate funds. This is an idea of fundraising to go into the discussion group and come back with a recommendation as to how to create money to support the National Show contribution. After discussion, **it was moved and seconded to provide an additional \$2000 for societies that are hosting a National Show and to provide \$750 for societies hosting the Spring Planning meeting. The motion passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm PDT.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder  
ADS Secretary