

**American Dahlia Society
Minutes – Board Meeting
February 10, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 pm EST by President Brad Freeman.

Present

Board members present were: Brad Freeman, Charles Miehm, Ken Jensen, Terry Schroeder, Harry Rissetto, Ron Miner, Jerry Landerholm, Dana Miller, John Morton, Drew Brant, Lou Paradise, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Claudia Biggs, Bob Schroeder, Elva Sellens, Art Haskins, Rosemary Freeman, Larry Smith, Nick Weber, Roger Walker, Sharon Swaney, Kristine Albrecht.

Minutes

Lou Paradise moved, and Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook seconded to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2019 Board Meeting, as corrected. The Website report was from November 2018; the correct information is in the final minutes. The motion passed.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President

Brad Freeman asked for any remembrances. The following members passed away since our last meeting: Tom Ball, Seattle Dahlia Society, Donna Black, Inland Empire Dahlia Society, Marilyn Masurat, John Stowell Dahlia Society, Debbie Russell, Monterey Bay Dahlia Society. A moment of silence was offered in remembrance of these individuals.

Treasurer

Charles Miehm submitted the following report. As of January 31, 2019, the Ameriprise Account has \$57,080.00 that is restricted and \$12,277.24 that is unrestricted. In the Vanguard account, there is \$66,680.43. The Lake City account has \$3,293.10 and the Wells Fargo account has \$55,921.11. Of the amounts in the Lake City Bank and Wells Fargo accounts, there is \$4,890.39 in the Virus Fund, \$29,596.94 for the Genome Project and \$2,525.00 for the 2022 National Show. The total restricted in those accounts is \$37,012.33. There is a total of \$195,251.88 in all accounts. Charles reports the ADS is on a cash basis. The reports he sends are for the calendar year, even though ADS's fiscal year is June 1 to May 31. Starting in 2019 at year end, he will compare each year going forward to enable us to see how the ADS is doing year after year. The 2018 Financial Report will be published in the March Bulletin. Charles switched the Lake City account to Wells Fargo so that it could be accessed anywhere. The President and Secretary were added to that account. He is in the process of changing the signers to Harry Rissetto and himself on the Ameriprise account. Mac Boyer will be closing out the Lake City account soon. **It was moved and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. The motion passed.**

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Mid Atlantic Conference

Dana Miller reports the Gettysburg Dahlia Society participated in five dahlia shows in 2018, including their own at the Biglerville Library. Their club members had top awards in all five shows. Although it was a very wet year and the blooms were not their best, it was still a good year. President John Rost indicated that their first tuber sale will be at the Chambersburg Daffodil Show on April 27th. They hope to hold one or two more sales after that. Their first Society meeting of 2019 is on March 9th. They are excited about a significant increase in the club membership and attribute it to the numerous dahlia presentations given to local garden clubs.

New National Capital Dahlia Society President Rich Gibson said they will hold seven tuber sales running from mid-March through early June. Their sales are the primary source of funding for the Society. The emphasis is on the varieties that their members have been successful growing. Most of the sales are at their monthly meetings, but three will be public tuber sales. The society's activities this year will focus on goals to facilitate growing, showing and enjoying the dahlia, sharing their knowledge and appreciation with the greater public, and providing fellowship activities to interact with other dahlia addicts. The activities will provide plenty of dahlia education and outreach. In addition to the monthly meetings, hands-on learning opportunities will occur weekly from mid-May to late October at the Society's Mid Atlantic Trial Garden. NCDS has already started planning for their hosting of the 2022 ADS National Show.

The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society is planning to hold two tuber sales this year, April 27 in downtown Kennett Square, PA, and May 11 at our home location, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square. Our first meeting of 2019 is on March 23rd at noon in the Catalpa Room at Longwood Gardens. We are looking forward to a "normal" year Society-wise after the all-consuming hectic schedule of the last three years preparing for and presenting the 2018 ADS National Show. Despite all the work and stress, we were pleased with the show we put on, and hope everyone who attended enjoyed themselves. Finally, the GPDS would like to congratulate Rich Gibson, an NCDS member as well as one of our own, on the Derrill Hart Medal he won for his mini ball introduction, 20th Ave. Morning Mist.

Midwest Dahlia Conference

Randy Foith reports all the conference societies are reeling from the bone chilling freeze. Most of the societies have their 2019 planning work in progress. Along with the 2019 National/Midwest Show in Grand Rapids, Michigan moving forward; we have the 2020 Midwest Show being hosted by the Elkhart DS in Indiana. Now looking to the 2021 Show and a host! Anyone?

North Atlantic Conference

Ed Bonci reports The NADC has experienced extreme weather this winter. From deep freezes to Summer like temperatures. Another snow event is on tap for this coming week. The Spring can't come soon enough!

Sad news from the Connecticut Dahlia Society. Long-time member Nick Paternostro passed away just prior to Christmas. Nick and his wife Donna joined CDS in 1997 and their dahlias were routinely on the head tables at all of the shows they attended. I'm

attaching a write up on Nick that was written by CDS President Marge Schnerr. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Donna and her family.

The NADC Spring meeting will take place on Sunday April 14 in Waterbury, CT. I can supply further information if anyone is interested in attending.

Pacific Northwest Conference

Mark Oldenkamp reports there seems to be some new season enthusiasm building in this area. Some have started pushing tubers for cuttings. There was a substantial group order of new stock from Halls of Heddon that hopefully will yield some interest at the shows this year. There were some new varieties last year that many will grow again.

The PNDC Executive Committee have plans to focus on evaluating the history of the conference with a spirit on considering ideas for future improvements. It appears that a bylaw revision will be part of this process. I am optimistic that good change can be the outcome.

The Canby Trial Garden is fully reserved the earliest ever. The Portland Trial garden team met recently to discuss plans for the new year. If anyone is in the NW there will be judging supplies at the Trial garden once blooms are ready to be judged. Qualified judges are encouraged to help with scoring.

The Portland Society will offer a judges training course on July 13. All are welcome from any of the PNDC societies or from outside the area.

I hope to encourage a few more from the NW to consider attending the Grand Rapids National Show with special emphasis on learning more about what hosting a national show means. This is subtle way to mention that there is a growing possibility for a future National Show to be hosted by a PNDC society.

Pacific Southwest Conference

John Morton reports they will have their Conference meeting next Saturday with the Dahlia Society of California hosting. They have a new society, the Central Coast Dahlia Society. They will be meeting with them at the Conference meeting.

Southern States Conference

Ray Phillips reports they are currently, enjoying mild temperatures, but this too shall pass, 80-degree, record temp yesterday, low 50's today.

It was decided at our fall meeting to rotate our shows so we could limit the Southern States Shows to three per year. This is deemed necessary due to the number of available judges in our conference and the need for all judges to be at all SS shows. Going forward the Georgia society has elected to forego their show in 2019, then Tennessee in 2020, Alabama in 2021. The Carolinas Society continues to hold their show annually.

It will soon be time for us to start propagation of cuttings for the spring. I prepared thirty pot roots for the mother bed today, just one hundred and ten more to go.

All four Southern States societies are preparing for our spring tuber sales, the tubers we cut up and stored from Jack Leatherwood's garden will come in handy on those dates.

We put up in excess of 2500 tubers to be shared by the four societies who came together to clean, cut, and store them. All our sales will benefit from this labor of love.

Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers

Drew Brant reports the Federation continues to plan for the 2020 National Show. They are working on advertising for the show. All societies are planning for their spring tuber sales. In mid-March, the Federation Spring Workshop and tuber auction will be held.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advertising

This position is currently vacant, and Brad reports he is working on finding someone to fill the position.

Classification

Lou reports the Cream of the Crop and Fab 50 have been tabulated and sent to both Sharon (Web) and Linda (Bulletin).

Despite our best efforts, named seedlings that were not for introduction keep finding their way into the CHD. This and other errors found in the 2019 CHD will be published in the June Bulletin.

There have been requests for 22 cultivars for reclassification for the 2019 growing season. It is likely that a few more will filter in before sending the list to the Classification Committee members in July.

Editor

Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook reports the March 2019 Bulletin is well underway, and on schedule for delivery in early March. Virtually all the content for the March 2019 Bulletin was in the hands of Parrot Press by January 25. I received the first proof on Wednesday, February 6, and have just completed my first reading of the copy. I will be sending my proof to Donna Lane for reading by a second pair of eyes over the weekend, and David should have it back from us by Monday, February 11. I've asked Elva to get the Membership List to David by the 15th of the month prior to each quarterly issue month. The *Bulletin* this month is very full of a variety of information; it should be of great value to our members.

We have received 31 club reports for this issue, which is just a bit above the average of 25.6 reports over March 2016, 2017 and 2018. We will keep working on getting more.

The good news is that Donna Lane will be taking over as the Show Reports Editor in 2019. This will be a great advantage for ADS – she will be able to devote the time required to communicate with local societies, secure the reports in a printable format and improve the accuracy of the information contained in the reports. Donna will be an excellent addition to our team.

Finance

Harry Risetto reports Charles' preliminary figures reflect that we are in good shape financially. I will circulate current financials when I receive them.

I would like to get a better handle on the flow of membership dues. Interest rates are still low, but it would be good to get them in the ADS account as soon as possible. Some of the local Society members are snow-birds and the ADS dues do not get forwarded to the ADS for weeks at a time.

I propose to include a donation envelope with the September Bulletin. Any suggestion about donation subjects can be sent to Harry Risetto.

We plan to send the ADS minutes to the Archive at the Cherokee Library in Atlanta. I recently sent them a copy of the ADS Centennial Book. I still have a number of the books left but have not received orders in the past year.

Should we endorse the proposal to increase the number of "color pages" in the Bulletin? Perhaps Linda can give us a cost. There can be some discussion at the Spring Planning Meeting.

The 2021 National Show does not have a sponsor. We need to have an Annual Meeting. We need to have a budget. I assume it can be held on the Sunday of a local Show.

Garden Dahlias

Alan Fisher reports he has been in contact with someone about doing something with growing dahlias in pots. I hope to get it to Sharon in time to post on line before spring, and make it available to use in the Bulletin perhaps for next year.

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 she received the 2019 ADS Insurance renewal form contract. I have reviewed the new insurance contract and made the updates to the contract. I sent it back in and they are now reviewing it to send us the final contract and bill. I have received approximately 8 insurance requests so far. That is less than I have seen in previous years. I think that many societies are sending the request directly to the insurance company and will send me the society member numbers separately.

Judging Accreditation

Bob Schroeder reports he has started collecting information from society/conference judging chairs to update the Judging Roster for 2019. I have set the cutoff date for submitting information as April 1st, 2019. I have received response from a few clubs and believe all will meet the deadline. I have sent out a few Certificates and pins to new candidates and advancing judges, but the numbers have not been as large as previous years. I expect the information for the Judging Roster to be submitted to the Bulletin's editor prior to the cutoff date for the June Bulletin printing

Membership

Elva Sellens reports We currently have 49 Participating Societies and one Associate Society that have submitted their membership lists for 2019. There are 7 societies who have not yet submitted their membership lists for 2019. I have contacted the 7 societies who have not yet submitted their membership lists. So far in 2019, we have 1,109 memberships – 749 individual memberships and 360 family memberships (360 x 2 = 720) for a total of 1,420 members. From 2018, there are 450 individual memberships and 211 family memberships that have not yet renewed for 2019. I have mailed out 139 new 2019 US membership packets out since December 2018.

I have received 2019 membership lists from 8 Canadian Participating Societies and I have not heard from one Participating Society. For 2019, there are 70 individual memberships and 41 family memberships (41 x 2 = 82) for a total of 152 members. From 2018, there are 26 individual and 11 family memberships that have not yet renewed for 2019. I have mailed out 13 new 2019 membership packets since December 2018.

For other foreign memberships, there are 12 individual memberships for 2019. There are 11 for 2018 that have not yet renewed for 2019.

National Exhibition

Art Haskins reports he has received no new inquiries from Societies requesting information about hosting National Shows in the future. It was requested at the last meeting to set up an Ad hoc committee to revise the current information in the Policy Manual regarding National Shows. The committee of Rosemary, Jerry, Ken and Art along with a two-page synopsis from the Longwood show have been exchanging information that needs to be included in a new booklet; it is a work in progress. We have identified two items we feel the ADS Board needs to clarify before we move to a final report. One is how to include information about the Eugene Boeke award and the other is what expenses should be incurred by the host society for a researcher. There also was a discussion last year about an online tuber auction. These items will be discussed at the Spring Planning Meeting. Mark Oldenkamp indicated a society in the Pacific Northwest Conference is on the sup0 of putting in a bid for 2023. They will be taking a vote at their upcoming meeting.

New Society Coordinator

Rosemary Freeman is glad to report a new society has formed in San Luis Obispo County on the central coast of California; The Central Coast Dahlia Society. She has been communicating with Heather Jamieson, their President and ADS Rep, since last September. She has also been in contact with Kristine Albrecht and has contacted the Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference; there is support from other California societies to assist this new society. They've sent in their dues to Elva and are starting with 11 ADS members. We will be formally accepting them to the ADS family of societies on our conference call. Please welcome them and help them out in any way you can. It's nice to see positive growth in California. Kristine added this society plans to have their first show at their fair this spring. The president is very excited and energetic.

Photography

Brad Freeman reports that Martin Kral indicated he would no longer chair the Photography Contest once this year's contest was completed. Brad will confirm with Martin and start looking for a replacement, if necessary.

Policy

Ron Miner reports he has started to review past minutes and has found nothing new to add to the policy manual.

Publicity and PR

Larry Smith reports he and Nathan Payne were recently appointed as the new Co-chairs of the ADS Publicity and Public Relations Committee by President Brad Freeman. I will be taking the lead with traditional media (TV, newspapers, etc.) and Nathan will take the lead with social media. To be honest, at this point we are too new to the position to have a clear direction. I reached out to the last PR Chair for pointers and have not gotten a response.

Our best efforts to attract new members will be accomplished largely on a grassroots level. While we won't have the time to do the legwork for local society PR programs, we can offer ideas and assistance that would help the local PR chairs to successfully reach out to the various media sources within their communities. There is a lot of free publicity available for those who know who and how to ask for it. By now, most of you have seen an example of an article I sent to the Board in which I worked with a local reporter to get publicity for our Portland club, highlighting our three members whose cultivars won 2018 Derrill Hart Awards. I will also be sending some clips of some television coverage I obtained for our PNDC regional show a couple of years back. This will give you a look at some of the possibilities that are out there. I have only done PR tasks in the Portland community, so some of my ideas may not be as applicable in smaller or larger communities.

The media these days seem to like content to be "sexy" (translation: compelling and entertaining) and that can be a challenge. I have been told at times that the dahlia isn't interesting enough for media attention; it doesn't do anything other than sit there and look pretty. I have found ways to overcome that barrier, so I know it is possible. At some point, the Board can brainstorm in order to give Nathan and me some concrete ideas of how we can truly capitalize on The Year of the Dahlia designation. With your help, Nathan and I will find ways to make the dahlia sexy (in a G-rated way, of course) and use that to encourage more people to get involved in our hobby. If anyone has suggestions to share, please let us know.

Research and Education

Nick Weber's report addresses the activities of the Virus Research and Program as well as the Genome Project that have been undertaken by ADS. Major accomplishments have been made in several areas of each of these significant programs as well as accompanying educational aspects as well. The end of the dahlia growing season brought the final tallies of 2018 virus studies that looked at dahlia virus from several different angles. There were studies that continued to examine the detection of virus in previously non-infected plants (the so-called G plants from previous years) along with studies of plants not previously tested, studies of new cohorts of plants from a very

important of group of growers – dahlia nurseries, sellers of tubers, and finally, a study of potential insect spread of virus and thrips populations through aggressive chemical (an early and late insecticide soil drench) and biological (predatory mites and Orius) applications that were undertaken. The continuing mantra – “If in doubt – throw it out” remains a valid conclusion in all these studies.

The results of these three areas of virus study represent interesting and continued broadening of the efforts being undertaken by the ADS. The results confirm the previous observations that virus deficient clean stock continues to be the best source of stock that remained clean with the lowest levels of newly detected virus in the current year. The studies not unexpectedly showed the presence of virus in plants that exhibit poor foliage and growth habit as has been seen in past years as well. The work with nurseries also confirmed that those businesses that had a stated policy of a high level of attention to retain stock that had excellent foliage and growth and to rogue out stock that had poor foliage and performance also had low virus detection levels as well. Finally, although the growing season for the area of the chemical and biological study was significantly stressed by higher than normal rainfall and temperatures, a chemical and biological thrips control study demonstrated that this approach yielded results with low thrips numbers. Interestingly, the results were not different than those where ordinary chemical treatments with Conserve and/or Merit were used in the remainder of the gardens. Additional field studies will be needed to confirm these results.

Kristine Albrecht has forwarded information that will be in a packet from her on Sunday February 10, 2019. In it is a document from Alex Harkness that has information about the progress of the genome study. It states that 28 individual plants (comprised of both species and modern dahlias) have been subjected to 40 million read base pairs each by the Novogene Company and gene assemblies have been made for 21 of the individuals thus far. Alex’s timeline suggests that the by the end of February gene family organization should be completed for the 28 individuals and gene sequence alignments and gene tree construction should begin. March will be a month of “Big Data” and should bring efforts at phylogenetic analysis. Mention is made in the report that a considerable amount of soil bacterium gene contamination has been observed but they do not believe that will cause significant issues in reconstructing species relationships.

Ron added the next important step on the virus work is to get the 2019 plan together and supported by Jim and Hanu. I hope to get a first cut at an article on that topic ready for discussion among the Team within a week or two.

Special Awards

Jerry Landerholm reports the 2018 Hart, Dudley, Gullikson and the Johnson medals have been engraved and

most have been delivered to my assistants who will graciously present them on behalf of the ADS. I have a couple left to be presented and that will occur in due time.

It is distressing (to me) that some local societies are dropping out of their medal exchange programs. Understandably, medals are not cheap, postage is high, and someone needs to do it. We also know of societies that have funded restocking their supplies; some with new designs. Most societies have traditionally used the medals for show awards. Societies not supplying medals, shouldn't expect any back.

In this vein, the ADS has enough bronze medals to supply our member societies for the year 2019. Medals will have to be ordered for 2020. Our current inventory of all other medals is sufficient for the near term. Our best pricing has been gained when we placed multiple medal orders. I have not recently asked for quotes.

Trial Garden

Ron Miner reports reservations for entries are in progress.

Virus Update

Ron Miner reports they are looking forward to 2019 testing. Jim Chuey has agreed to continue to provide funding for tests and Professor Pappu has agreed to continue the testing program. The team will be working out the details for publication in the June Bulletin.

Genome Sequencing

Kristine Albrecht reports Dr. Walbot has turned the assembly of the mRNA from leaf samples taken this summer from 28 dahlias to Dr. Alex Harkess who along with Courtney Sciebout will assemble the mRNA information that is back from Novogene. They are making great progress, and most of the transcriptomes are assembled into gene sequences. They have found a large amount of contamination in the data from soil bacterium, which is not surprising as the samples were field collected. They will continue to assess the impact of that bacterial contamination on the results. They don't currently foresee any issues given the large amount of data generated but will have a better idea once they hit the February 22 milestone.

Dr. Harkess will be speaking at the National Show in Grand Rapids set now for Sunday at 10 am. Hope you all can come hear him speak. Bring your questions. See the talk outline below and a little bit about Dr. Harkess.

Website

Sharon Swaney reports for the last several months it has been all about updating and adding content to the site. Much 2018 season information has been added as well as year-end change over information. Examples of this information include:

- Local society leadership changes
- ADS leadership changes
- New originations info
- Micro information (extensive)
- Online Classification Guide updates
- Hart, Dudley, Gullickson, and Stanley awards
- Local Society show results
- Photo contest winners
- Largest dahlia in the world contest winners

An emphasis is being placed on pictures wherever possible/available. For instance, pictures were posted with most of the 2018 Hart, Dudley, and Gullickson awards and a picture chart of all Stanley awards winners was added to the site. This strategy depends on all contributors to the site. Please try to send pictures along with your information. Also send general pictures. The site could particularly use garden pictures and activity/events pictures (people having fun).

Please send along interesting dahlia related factoids and stories for the site, for example, the information about Carol Channing visiting a dahlia show. This sort of information keeps the home page from becoming stale.

The most significant (at least legally) recent addition to the site was the new Privacy Policy. Now we all must live up to it. The policy says that it covers the web site and the ADS in general. Everyone, please read the policy and be sure you are complying when you have customer/member/public information in your possession.

The virus team is in the process of updating and organizing all virus information on the site. Look for some nice changes. Please look at the information regarding your specialties and consider ways to make the information more complete, more organized, more pictorial, etc.

As always, the website needs good photos for the online classification guide. There was discussion about placing the photo contest entries on the website. There was a question about privacy, but it was stated that the rules of the contest provide that the photographer grants the ADS the use of their entries in ADS publications, image library and website. **Terry Schroeder moved, and Bob Schroeder seconded to put photos from the photo contest on both the website and Facebook. The motion was approved.**

OLD BUSINESS

Spring Planning Meeting

Ken Jensen reported on the Spring Planning Meeting details. The hotel that was selected is the Radisson Red Deer. The room cost is \$114.00 plus taxes and includes a hot breakfast. Phone 403-357-1122 or groupbookings@radissonreddeer.com. It has all the amenities needed for our meetings and is easily accessible from Highway 2. Red Deer is an equal distance from Calgary and Edmonton airports. There is a bus service from this hotel to Calgary and Edmonton airports on a scheduled and reservation basis for an approximate cost of \$50.00 per person. See www.redarrow.com. If you are renting a car, it is a little over an hour drive through some of Western Canada's richest farmland. If the weather is favorable seeding could be in full production.

The Board Meeting will start at 7 pm on May 3. There will also be a presentation about determining color of dahlias, by Terry. There will also be some discussion regarding International/Overseas Membership. All meetings will be held at the Radisson. The Alberta Dahlia and Gladiolus Society looks forward to hosting a Big BE night on Saturday evening, May 4 including Beef, Bowling and refreshments. This will be held at Ambassador Bowling in Lacombe, a 20-minute drive. Sunday afternoon, May 5, after the meeting we have planned a visit to the Piper Creek Trial Garden site on Lorne and Marilyn McArthur's property south east of Red Deer. You can also tour Lorne's taxidermy shop and see some of Marilyn's beautiful quilts. Refreshments will be served. If there is enough interest, we can arrange a trip to Banff National Park on Monday. If we have 20 the cost would be about \$60.00 per person, for a coach and guide. The coach cost is \$1,150.00 per day for 14 hours and park entry is \$8.50 per person. There is also easy access by vehicle.

NEW BUSINESS

New Dahlia Society

As Rosemary announced in her report, there is a new dahlia society in California, The South Coast Dahlia Society. **Lou Paradis moved, and Kristine Albrecht seconded to approve this society as a participating society of the American Dahlia Society. The motion passed.**

ADS Store Transition

Cammi Waggoner has stated she will take over the ADS Store from Mac Boyer. Brad will contact Cammi and confirm her interest.

Historical Archives

Harry Risetto reports there was a meeting of the ad hoc archive committee. He has been in touch with the Cherokee Library and Mac will be sending 25 pounds of information, primarily minutes, he believes to Harry. Harry will be sending copies of the *Bulletin* from the last 50 years to Cherokee Library. The team will sort and find a permanent home for this historical information. Nick Weber stated he has a communication from Lynn Dudley from the 60s and will send that to Harry also.

Publicity/Public Relations Committee Chair

As Larry Smith reported in the Publicity/PR report, he and Nathan Payne are now chairing this committee with Nathan overseeing social media and Larry in traditional media.

New Member of Publication Committee

As Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook reported, Donna Stone has agreed to be a member of the Publication/Editor committee, primarily as Show Report Editor.

Bob Schroeder moved, and Drew Brant seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:39m EST.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder
ADS Secretary