

**American Dahlia Society
Minutes – Board Meeting
July 14, 2019**

Present

Board members present were: Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Ken Jensen, Tony Evangelista, Terry Schroeder, Charles Miehm, Harry Risetto, Dana Miller, John Morton, Ray Phillips, Drew Brant, Lou Paradise, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Donna Lane, Alan F7isher, Claudia Biggs, Bob Schroeder, Elva Sellens, Rosemary Freeman, Larry Smith, Nick Weber, Roger Walker, Jerry Landerholm, Sharon Swaney and Kristine Albrecht.

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm EDT by President Brad Freeman. Brad asked for remembrances for those who are ill or have passed. He stated Danielle Parshall is having some serious medical issues and she and Dick are having a difficult time. It was noted both Katy Bannister and Gloria Nieto, both of Monterey Bay, are having cancer surgery. National Capital Dahlia Society member Bob Goss, introducer of the dahlia, "Vicki" B-SC-Y, has passed. NCDS member Frank Impressia is ill.

Minutes

Corrections noted for the May 2019 minutes: Ken Jensen is Third Vice-President, not Second Vice President. Under Location of 2021 Annual Meeting, there was information missing; the additional information is: "As a result of Brad's article in the March 2019 *Bulletin*, The Dahlia Society of Ohio started looking at the possibility of having a National Show. As a result of our discussion at the Planning Meeting, **Harry Risetto moved, and Ken Jensen seconded to provide a special national show supplement on a non-precedential basis of \$3,000 to Dahlia Society of Ohio. The motion passed.** Ron Miner will go back to his society and see if they are willing and able to do the work to plan a national show in two years." **Mark Oldenkamp moved, and Charles Miehm seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passed.**

OFFICERS REPORTS

President

Brad Freeman reported The Spring Executive Board Meeting and Planning Session in Red Deer, Alberta was very successful. I would to thank those Executive Board members who attended. Their hard work and dedication to the organization is what makes the ADS great. Also, I want to thank the Alberta Dahlia and Gladiolus Society for hosting the meeting and the hospitality they extended over the entire weekend.

At the Spring Executive Board Meeting discussions were held on a wide range of topics including finances, publicity/marketing, National Shows, Bulletin improvements and memberships. From these discussions specific initiatives were identified and prioritized. Executive Board members were assigned to specific initiatives with the goal of bringing them to fruition. A draft of the Minutes of the Spring Board Meeting and Planning Session has been sent to all members of the Executive Board for review.

The ad-hoc committee working on Bulletin improvements has prepared a Request for Proposal and it has been emailed to three printing companies including Parrott Press, the current printer of the Bulletin. As of today, only one proposal has been received. Once the proposals are received the ad-hoc committee will review them and make recommendations for the next steps.

Ron has emailed a proposal to the All-American Selections organization. The proposal is to include the Hart and Gullikson medal winners in their program on an annual basis. Included with the proposal was the ADS Trial Garden Rules, Requirements for Senior Judges and the seedling scoresheets. We are waiting to hear back from them.

The ADS and the American Horticultural Society will be placing advertisements in each other's publications this September. The advertisements will be a full page in color. This exchange is being done at no cost and is a way for each organization to reach out to the gardening public.

Steve Lamb, Kitsap County Dahlia Society, will be joining the Membership Committee. Steve will be working with Elva on retaining members and recruiting new members. Membership applications and dues payments will continue to be sent to Elva Sellens.

Finally, if you are an Amazon user, there is a way that your online purchases can benefit the ADS. The ADS is one of the charitable organizations in the AmazonSmile program. For eligible purchases Amazon contributes to your selected charitable organization such as the ADS. For more information you can visit

<https://www.smile.amazon.com>

Treasurer

Charles Miehme submitted the following report, as of 6/30/2019.

TOTAL ADS FUNDS AS OF 06/30/19

Ameriprise Account (restricted)	\$ 67,020.00
Ameriprise Account (unrestricted)	\$ 15,510.85
Vanguard Account	\$ 71,170.67
Wells Fargo Bank Account	\$ 63,070.68
TOTAL ADS FUNDS	\$ 216,772.20

Inventory Value as of 06/30/19	\$ 14,078.00
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RESTRICTED FUNDS

(these funds are included in the Wells Fargo account)

Virus Fund - Sheetz-Chuey Foundation	\$ 4,890.39
Genome Project	\$ 34,927.06
2020 National Show	\$ 100.00
2021 National Show	\$ 50.00
2022 National Show	\$ 2,525.00
2023 National Show	\$ 50.00
Total Restricted	\$ 42,542.45

There was a question about membership dues being down this year. Charles stated the dues are shown on a year-to-date basis, so the dues received in late fall 2018 are not shown on this report. Actual membership is stable. We are in transition with new membership chair and treasurer as well. Charles reports he is in the process of completing taxes for the ADS. There was discussion about the Boeke Award and a suggestion to try to get those flowers out there and grown by exhibitors so there is a better chance of that award being awarded. The funds for it are restricted. The award amount starts at \$1,000 and increases by \$1,000 each year it is not won, until 2060. There was a suggestion to use some of the Boeke money to test some of the stock that is available before offering it to growers. **Mark Oldenkamp moved, and Charles Miehm seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. The motion passed.**

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Mid Atlantic Conference

Dana Miller reports the weather this spring has blessed the Mid Atlantic Dahlia Societies. The only issue has been the extraordinary amount of rain. Some tubers no doubt rotted, but most are off to a good start. It's gotten hot and humid, but there is still good moisture in the ground, helped by frequent storms. Everyone is anticipating a bumper crop and a great show season.

The Gettysburg Dahlia Society had successful tuber sales and is preparing for their Show on August 30th and 31st, at the Thomas Library in Biglerville, PA.

The people at National Capital Society have planted the Mid Atlantic Trial Garden, aka The Nordahl Exhibition Garden, at the Derwood Montgomery County AG History Farm. Their many volunteers have been maintaining it in tip-top shape. A huge, colorful display will provide a real treat for their numerous visitors. NCDS has a mid-summer show on August 18th at the Derwood AG Farm. Their big show is September 27th-29th at Brookside Gardens in Maryland.

The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society had record-breaking tuber sales this spring and an increase in its membership. Everyone is looking forward to seeing their dahlias

produce many blooms, rewarding them for all their hard work. The society picnic is August 24th at Sylvia Green's historic home and farm, including judging seminars, flower arranging, plenty of good eats, and socializing. The annual Dahlia Show is at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA, on September 21- 22. Enjoy the best time of the year for growing dahlias.

Pacific Northwest Conference

Mark Oldenkamp reports PNDC had their judging school yesterday and it was well attended.

Pacific Southwest Conference

John Morton reports the Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference held their annual meeting in San Francisco hosted by the Dahlia Society of California. We gladly welcomed Heather Jamieson from the newly formed Central Coast Dahlia Society. Kristine Albrecht brought us up to date on the Genome Project and the excitement is growing as we should be seeing some results of all the trips to pick species seeds. Lou Paradise spoke on the Virus in Dahlias trifold and the mistakes we are making when working with our dahlias.

After many years of loyal service, Dave Tooley has stepped down as President of the San Diego County Dahlia Society and Elaine Ornelas has taken that position. We wish Elaine the best in her new position. The John E. Stowell Dahlia society in San Jose is on standby. Once again there will be no show this year. The conference will hold a judging seminar in late July hosted by the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society.

In early June we had several days of extreme heat. Even San Francisco had several days in the 100-degree temperatures.

Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers

All is well here in the Great Pacific Northwest. With the great spring weather, most dahlia gardens are getting their first blooms. The Federation is gearing up for our upcoming show season with a 20 July Board meeting and Summer Workshop. The programs will look at the micro classes, both in how they are set up for the Federation shows and how to judge them. There will also be a lively program about growing dahlias based on information gathered from various dahlia growers.

Additionally, the Federation will be hosting three judging workshops. The first will be at the home of Wally Kurth on the 13th of July in Langley BC. The next two will be in Burlington, WA and in Olympia, WA on the 27th of July. Judging workshops will be followed by the first Dahlia show of the year hosted by the Kitsap County Dahlia Society on 3 and 4 August.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Classification

Lou Paradise reports this is the beginning of our busy period. Some show report forms have already been sent with the remainder to be sent mid-July. I'm sure this year will be difficult to tabulate with the introduction of the Micro dahlia. There have been many questions concerning the Micros.

Although an article appeared in the December 2018 *Bulletin* about Micros, we need all your help. It would be helpful, at the shows that you attend, if you could make sure that any Micro dahlia, not already in the CHD as a micro, be shown and reported as a Micro. Please have them use the "Non-ADS Award Winners 2019" form. When we receive this form, we will know that the cultivar should be moved to the Micro class and be reported in the 2020 CHD as such. All show reporters will receive this form in addition to the other reporting forms.

Editor

Linda reports the June *Bulletin* was delivered by the third week in June. The June issue featured the 4th installment of the historical story of "Henrietta Stout: The Lady of the Dahlias". Harry Waterson, the author of this piece has extended his gratitude to the ADS for printing this thoughtful and detailed biography of a remarkable dahlia pioneer. This article takes the reader on a walk through a place and time that influenced the development of dahlia exhibition and evaluation as we know it today. As noted in the March 2019 issue of The *Bulletin*, Jerry Landerholm has presented the author with the ADS Commemorative Medal in recognition of this thoughtful work, a true labor of love.

I am currently receiving submissions for the September 2019 *Bulletin*, which is typically relatively small. Following up on our April 2019 Spring Planning Meeting, I plan to explore printing options in order to improve our product. President Brad Freeman has written an RFP, sent it to me for review and sent it out to four different printing businesses, including our current printer, Parrot Press. He has received one proposal to date.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to The *Bulletin*. We depend on all of you to keep our members informed and to further discussion of the many aspects of dahlia gardening and exhibition. We currently have 2,651 Facebook members. People are asking for help on various topics on growing dahlias and for reminders about registering for the National Show.

Finance

Harry Risetto reports the current Operating Statement and Balance Sheet from the Treasurer reflects that the ADS Finances are stable and in good order. It must be noted that the significant asset balance reflects 2019 dues payments. There will be substantial outlays by year-end to cover member publications.

The Committee has recommended a donation envelope in the September Bulletin. It will focus on the Genome and Virus projects. The Board should discuss an additional contribution to the Genome Fund to supplement the current \$30,000 balance.

The Treasurer is working on a history of dues revenue in connection with a possible discussion of dues levels.

The Committee has discussed an enhancement of the website to permit multi-volume searches of the Bulletin archives on the members-only portion of the website. Cost is a major factor; Sharon will work up some estimates.

Image Library

Claudia Biggs reports it's been slow in the Image Library, due to some health issues which I hope to have resolved soon. I'm getting prepared to handle the 2020 New Introductions.

Insurance

Cheryl Shores reports all is quiet on the insurance front. I did have an inquiry regarding insurance and coverage for the National Show in 2023 for the Portland Dahlia Society.

Judging Accreditation

Bob Schroeder reports the Judging Roster has been delivered along with the June Bulletin to members and updated on the ADS web site. Thanks to the editor of the Bulletin, Linda Holmes Cook, and the web master, Sharon Swaney for their assistance in this annual task.

I was contacted by Harry Risetto stating he had a supply of dahlia pins which he would give to the ADS. He suggested they may be something that could be given to recognize Candidate Judges. The pins currently in use are: gold-green given to senior judge, gold-purple given to Accredited Judges. Suggestions for the new pins are 120 purple given to candidates, 51 orange given to honorary senior judges and 65 tie stick pins. The board agreed with using the new pins as Bob feels appropriate. Using the pins as Bob recommends, this supply would last three to four years. The recommendation is to give the pins for those who meet the requirements from this date forward. Once this supply is out, Bob can purchase more to continue the program. It is important for the ADS to support this activity.

Membership

Elva Sellens reports as of 7/11/19, we have a total of 2,211 members from the U.S., Canada and other foreign countries. There are 246 new U.S. memberships and 13 new Canadian memberships in 2019 so far. The breakdown of membership is as follows:

U.S.

56 Participating Societies
2 Associate Societies
984 Individual memberships
475 Family memberships x 2 = 950
Total members 1,934

Canadian

9 Participating Societies
1 Associate Society
85 Individual memberships
43 Family memberships x 2 = 86
Total members 171

Other Foreign Countries

17 memberships

At the end of June, I sent out letters that memberships were ending due to non-payment of ADS dues. I have gotten dues for 22 members so far and there were a couple I missed posting from the membership lists. I have also heard from some people due to health and/or age are no longer growing dahlias and would not be renewing their memberships. As of today, 322 of the U.S. and 22 Canadian 2018 memberships have not yet renewed for 2019. Of these 322 U.S. memberships, there were 130 new 2018 members who did renew in 2019 - 102 from participating societies and 28 from memberships at large. From Canada, there were 5 new 2018 members who did not renew - 4 from participating society and 1 from membership at large. In 2018, we had 228 new U.S. members and only 98 of these new 2018 members renewed in 2019 and for Canada, there were 18 new 2018 members and 13 renewed in 2019. In looking at a couple of past years, we seem to get new members, but they do not continue to participate in dahlia societies. It seems that some people just want to learn how to grow dahlias and are not interested in joining a club. It may help if the society assigns a mentor to the new members to see if they can get these new members involved in growing and possibility of showing dahlias or doing arrangements in shows.

National Exhibition

Art Haskins reports we have National Shows booked until the next available date in 2024. Thanks to the folks in Ohio who stepped in to host the 2021 date. Upcoming shows include: 2019 West Michigan D. S., 2020 Federation of Northwest Growers, 2021 Dahlia Society of Ohio, 2022 National Capital D S, 2023 Portland D. S. I will be contacting other members of the committee to update the guidelines for National Shows shortly, having received feedback from the spring meeting.

New Society Coordinator

Rosemary Freeman reports I've received a request from a local dahlia grower living west of Olympia by lower Puget Sound that is interested in forming a local dahlia society. At least he wants to investigate it. I've sent him digital copies of our booklet and information on setting up bylaws and constitutions, signing on with the IRS, etc. I'll let you know if they make progress.

While looking into his request, I realized how much of my information is outdated, not to mention the booklet itself where the print is so small, I need a magnifying glass to read it. I need to clean up my saved data and load more current information. And I intend to completely revise and add more info and suggestions. That is my intention, all I need is time.

Publicity/Public Relations

Larry Smith reports I coordinated appearances on a local and a regional TV program to highlight "The Year of the Dahlia." The angle I chose was to emphasize the ADS's promotion of micro dahlias to encourage people with limited space to grow dahlias. The links to the videos are on the ADS website and here: <https://youtu.be/uE1IOuAROuM>

We have permission from the producers to share the links far and wide, so please do put them on your websites and social media. Also, send them to anyone who you think might have an interest.

Research and Education

Nick Weber reports Ron has done an excellent job of getting the 2019 Virus Program together and running. The program at Washington State University is being subsidized again this year by the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation. It consists of three separate parts that includes Free Testing for vendors that encourages suppliers to test and upgrade their stock. A large number of tests are being offered free of charge. Additional testing will be available at the \$10 per sample, if the allotted testing is exceeded. The second part of the program is Subsidized Tests for ADS Societies. Societies are being offered half price testing of 30 varieties for \$150 to encourage propagation and dissemination of clean plants in societies. It is hoped that these plants will command a premium price and increase revenue for societies as well. They should also help to increase the awareness of virus free stock. The final part of the program is an open testing program that supports submission of 30 or more samples at \$10 per sample that allows participants to develop information on their sample varieties. Information for submission of samples is found on the ADS web site (dahlia.org) along with information to support virus free dahlia growing.

In a report by Ron Miner submitted for the conference call, he mentions other virus-related activities. They include:

- 1) Dr. Pappu's Summer research in Germany,
- 2) Dr. Moyo's work at WSU on virus fragments in species dahlias from the Genome Project,
- 3) Initiation of efforts to growing dahlias in tissue culture which may help remove virus from infected varieties,
- 4) Experiments to study the transfer of viruses in a controlled greenhouse environment,
- 5) A long-term project that will use Artificial Intelligence to identify specific plant proteins that could be subject to virus attack

Work on the genome project has progressed to an interesting dilemma. According to Kristine Albrecht's report "The data analysis of the leaf sample RNA sequencing, so far, shows the highly related nature of all the species dahlias samples. The lack of diversity may make it very difficult to pinpoint one or two species as the parents" of modern dahlias. Kristine's notes indicate that an alternative technology that uses "cleaner" RNA-sequence data may be necessary to move the project forward. The additional technology would likely cost about \$5000. There seems to be a question as to the level of resolution in the data thus far obtained and the level of differentiation needed to move forward. Dr. Harkess intends to provide more detail in his talk at the ADS National Show in September.

Dr. Walbot feels that if she feels seed from additional species could help, she can enlist the help of a local expert to collect additional species seed while in Mexico this fall for a conference. The cost for this activity is indicated in the \$500 - \$1000 range.

Special Awards

Jerry Landerholm reports he has quotes for the medals we award frequently. It shows that prices have gone up a bit, except for silver. One issue is the continuation of giving the bronze medal. If we discontinue, it would require a change in the bylaws. Several

societies are discontinuing their medal exchange. After discussion it was felt the ADS medal is highly valued and medals are valued by newer exhibitors. It was suggested that we could save some money by sending two medals at a time, to be used for two years. It was felt Terry could do one or two years, as she felt was appropriate. **Harry Risetto moved, and Alan Fisher seconded to approve purchasing 250 bronze medals.** Jerry also would like to order 20 silver and 40 commemorative medals. **Harry amended his motion to allow all 3 categories of medals to be ordered and Alan Fisher stated his second would cover the amendment.** The motion was approved.

Trial Garden

Ron Miner reports I should have the full list of 2019 entries by the time of the conference call. Obviously, this is a very busy time for the TG Directors. There are no reports of major problems from any of the gardens. We have reviewed the management of growing the new “micro” entries. Topping and disbudding of those entries will be tuned to the growth habit of the plants.

Virus Update

Ron Miner states the key result of the virus testing last summer was that disinfecting cutting tools is essential to avoid infecting clean plants.

The response to our offer to ADS clubs to participate in a virus testing project has been slow. The objective of the project is to help provide clean stock for club tuber and plant sales. With the support of the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation, the ADS will cover half the cost of testing a set of 30 samples (\$150) from each local ADS Society. The tubers from the clean plants in those tests would then serve as the source for clean tubers and plants the following spring. Some local effort is required in organizing the program in each club – but the benefits of having more clean stock around the country are substantial. Participation in the program is still available. We will need to stop taking new club applications soon after the conference call in order to determine how many samples we can authorize our vendors to send for analysis. Please encourage each of your clubs to sign up with me at baronminer@aol.com. Specific instructions are also available on the ADS website.

Professor Pappu is working with other virus experts in Germany on his Humboldt Research Award. The honor reflects well on the recognition of his expertise in plant viruses. He will be returning to WSU at the end of the summer. Dr. Lindani Moyo continues his work as Director of the Dahlia Resource Center at WSU. He is working on several projects including the analysis of virus segments in the genomes of the species dahlias gathered by Professor Walbot and her group at Stanford. He is making progress on the requirements for successfully growing dahlia tissue cultures. This effort could lead to a system for cleaning up dahlias with virus. He is setting up a lab experiment to study the transfer of viruses in a controlled greenhouse environment. We were disappointed to learn that, as a result of the conditions of his Fulbright Scholarship at WSU, he will need to return home for one year starting in October. Dr. Ying Zhai had the responsibility for virus testing of our dahlia leaves before Lindani took over and will be handling that work again.

Another member of Professor Pappu’s team, Dr. Romana Iftikhar, is working in cooperation with Dr. Moyo, to develop a rapid molecular test for DNA viruses of dahlia

(Dahlia mosaic virus and Dahlia common mosaic virus). A PhD student in Prof. Pappu's team, Ms. Hira Kamal, is involved in a long-term project to take advantage of Artificial Intelligence to identify the specific plant proteins that could be subject to virus attack. The researcher succeeded in identifying the protein that makes cotton susceptible to cotton leaf curl disease. Identification of those proteins could provide an approach for improving virus resistance.

Genome Sequencing

Kristine Albrecht reports on the progress of the Genome Project.

Where we are and where we are going: The sequenced RNA leaf sample data are back from the lab. They were taken from 15 species dahlias (3 examples of *D. coccinea*, 2 of *D. sorensenii*, and 2 of *D. rudis*) and 10 modern day dahlias. The millions of RNA data are being sifted through and analyzed. After this analysis, the thought is that one species dahlia (If there seems to be one parent) will be taken through the DNA sequencing process to complete the Dahlia Genome Project.

News: The data analysis so far of the leaf sample RNA sequencing shows the highly related nature of all the species dahlias sampled. This is a big surprise. It's possible that the group "radiated (formed lines recognized as species today)" very recently, perhaps since the settlement of people in the Americas??? The diversity is on the order of modern dogs (domesticated about 20,000 - 40,000 years ago) from the wolf.

The lack of diversity may make it very difficult to pinpoint one or two species as the parents.

Questions:

1. How can ADS help the work that is being done on the Genome Project going forward? To move the Genome Project forward "cleaner" RNA-seq data on *D. coccinea* and *D. sorensenii* using alternative technology, managed by Dr. Alex Harkess might be necessary. Dr. Harkess is the scientist currently working pro-bono on the sequenced data. The technology would cost about \$5,000.

Also, Dr. Walbot has been invited to present a talk on corn in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico at the end of October and one of our previous collaborators on the Genome Project, Eduardo Ruiz Sanchez (from Univ. of Guadalajara), and Dr. Walbot are already talking about collecting more species seeds in southern Mexico before or after the meeting. The collection of seeds in Mexico is contingent on having a good plan based on the initial data that Dr. Harkess is working on. If Dr. Walbot feels more seed should be collected ADS could help with funding an expert familiar with the location of species dahlias. This would likely run between \$500-\$1,000.

2. Are we where we are expected to be at this point? The analysis is a bit behind, because the dahlias are very closely related to each other. All the data point to sunflower being the closest allied genus, as expected, but the resolution within the dahlia genus is going to require much more analysis, and possibly additional data.

3. Is there anything that might be seen as a stumbling block at this juncture? The team of Dr. Alex Harkess and Courtney worked with the sequenced data in the late winter-early spring. It is now just Alex. Courtney is doing an internship this summer and enters a Ph.D. program at Dartmouth in data analysis; the ADS can

take credit for some of her training that qualified her for both the internship and her new educational experience. In June and July Alex has been consumed with wedding planning and then getting married. He will be back “on the job” in time to provide much more detail in his talk at the ADS National meeting in September.

4. What is the timeframe in which we might see more outcomes from the leaf tissue sequencing? September-October.

She provided pictures of a few of the species dahlia grown out for the first time this year from seeds collected by Dr. Walbot in Mexico through the ADS Genome Project.

Website

Sharon Swaney reports she is making many seasonal updates - changes in ADS reps, forms for this season, judges lists etc.

The call has gone out for information about 2019 local society shows so that they can be listed on the site. Please encourage all ADS Reps to send their info by the deadline and formatted as requested. Shows should be on the site before the end of the month. Sharon continues to make progress on the new Online Classification Guide. The site hosting company is making some changes to accommodate the new software. The new guide should be available soon. Finally, Sharon is still working on moving the national show domains under the auspices of the site hosting company.

ADS REPS – Mark Oldenkamp & Ken Jensen

Mark Oldenkamp reports the annual planning meeting in Red Deer, Alberta was very well structured, and the topics of discussion provided good guidance to near term goals and objectives. I am interested to see how we develop the concept of fundraising for ADS through a tuber auction. Details are being worked on. The goal of this endeavor is important because of the ADS recognition of the need to increase monetary support to societies that step up to host national shows.

I was able to meet with the Central Coast Dahlia Society, operating in the San Luis Obispo area in early June. It was great to meet the leadership and members, enjoy a wonderful BBQ and to share some ideas on staging blooms and a bit about the judging of dahlias. This new society has good potential and is situated in an area that has a very good climate for growing dahlias. They were surprised by how much one can transport via the commercial airlines; I shared quite a few tubers, some rooted cuttings and some show containers. Thanks for the wonderful hospitality.

I will be traveling to Vancouver Island soon (a fishing trip) and I am looking forward to participating in the judges training in Nanaimo which was arranged to coincide with my visit. This society has a good group of new candidate judges and The PNDC is trying hard to support them in a rebuilding effort.

For other judges that might be traveling to other areas, please consider contacting with the societies where you are going and offering yourself as a resource to share with them. It is important for judges with different training and experience to be in dialogue with other judges and growers. The benefits are mutual, and the rewards of the new relationships are a significant bonus.

I continue to send emails to ADS Reps and ADS Presidents for the many Societies. Collectively, we attempt to keep the list of those volunteers up to date in the GroupVine interactive email system.

OLD BUSINESS

National Show Handbook

Brad Freeman stated we set a goal of trying to get this done by this fall. Rosemary sent out an email earlier this week to get some input. We need to finish the handbook and then get in the mode of recruiting for show venues from 2024 forward. Rosemary feels the more we put into this publication, the easier it will be to convince a society to host a national show; that it doesn't have to be as frightening as it appeared. Rosemary feels they are on target to complete this by the fall.

Social Media Manager

Brad Freeman stated we thought we had someone to fill that position, but it did not work out. We need to find a person for that position. Perhaps the regional vice presidents could help as they know the people in their region. If anyone knows someone who is active in their club who is a good social media person, let us know.

Virus Testing

Nick Weber incorporated some notes from Ron's report in his research report. We are doing the virus program in three areas: 1) free virus testing for vendors, 2) subsidized testing for ADS societies, 3) open testing to individuals/persons for 30 or more samples at \$10 per sample, minimum of \$300 for 30 samples. Dr. Pappu is on a special award research project in Germany. One of his collaborators at WSU is working on virus fragments found in species dahlias from the genome project, which should give us more information. Additional information regarding growing dahlias from tissue culture to help remove virus infection from varieties. Extending some work that Ron did on transfer of viruses in a controlled greenhouse environment. Finally, a long-term project using artificial intelligence designed to identify specific plant proteins that could be subject to the virus attack.

Genome

(see above) Kristine gave a brief update on where we are and where we hope to go. The sequenced RNA samples – 15 species and 10 modern-day dahlias. They are in the process of sifting through and analyzing, managed by Dr. Harkess. The data analysis of leaf samples shows a highly related nature of all the species dahlias. Because the samples are similar, they would like to propose to get some cleaner RNA sequence data on two of the species dahlias, \$5,000 cost. Kristine sent a proposal to the Executive Committee to approve the cost. Dr. Walbot will be doing a talk in Mexico at the end of October and she is willing to go out with one of her collaborators to find more species dahlias. She would like to pay some experts to help find the exact spots to procure these species dahlias. This is the standard for finding species dahlias; these people know the locations and can assist in locating the species dahlias more efficiently. Dr. Walbot is working with a person from the University of Guadalajara and she is well connected with the universities in Mexico. Again, a proposal was sent to the Executive Committee, if Dr. Walbot feels it is necessary based on if we need more

collection, based on the data that Dr. Harkess is working on. He needs an increased resolution; can you increase the resolution of that data set or do you need another data set with an advanced technology to look at that relatedness issue. It was asked if we could defer any monetary decision, other than for Dr. Walbot to collect samples in Mexico, until we have the Grand Rapids presentation. Understanding what this technology is that will help us get a better resolution of the data is an important question. Kristine will check with Dr. Harkess as to what machinery is needed and check with Dr. Pappu as to whether WSU has that machinery and whether we could use it. There are a lot of unanswered questions that need a little more information before we can make a decision on what we are going to do. It was suggested to have a meeting of a small group with Dr. Harkess to ask questions about this alternative technology. It would be helpful to get information about this technology prior to this meeting. Kristine will check with Dr. Harkess's availability and set up a meeting and ask him to provide some talking points about this technology before the meeting. **Mark Oldenkamp moved, and Ken Jensen seconded to approve funding up to \$1000 to help Dr. Walbot in her search for species dahlias this fall. The motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

Membership

Brad welcomed a new member to the Membership Committee. Steve Lamb, Kitsap County Dahlia Society member, has volunteered to help Elva with retaining and recruiting members. He has done this before and is enthused about it. We did set a goal several years ago to increase membership by 10% per year, which is a goal Steve also was stating. He is enthused about this opportunity.

Initiatives From Spring Planning

- Tuber Auction – An ad hoc committee of Ken, Sharon, Brad and Tony was formed. They will explore options and come back with a plan by next winter. Important to find a way to provide some operating capital. Ken stated he is looking for one or two volunteers to collect the tubers and do the mailing. There was discussion regarding trying to get some Boeke varieties for the tuber auction.
- Spring Planning – Ken and Bob will continue to work on this. There are good ideas about things we can offer the local societies and wanting to go to places we haven't been previously, so they have some exposure to the ADS member. Ken did contact the Colorado Dahlia Society and they have a meeting coming up and will discuss this. They are interested and will let Ken know if the society wants to do this. It is important for board members to make attending the spring planning meeting a priority.
- Bulletin Improvements – Brad prepared a RFP, reviewed by Linda, to go out to some printers. The idea is to see if we could go to full color in *The Bulletin*. It's a work in progress, but we are making progress. Goal is to get to full color, increase advertising and improve the publication for our members. Brad is expecting the information he needs in a week or so.

- Membership – Brad needs to get the notes from the membership discussion to the ad hoc committee
- Publicity/Public Relations – Larry attended via conference call and he got some good ideas as to where we want to head with this. Larry can help the local societies, but not do the work. There was an article in the June Bulletin about how he can assist. He sent a link to a “Garden Time” interview he did that is on the website. Linda can also put it on Facebook. Larry also feels that videos on dahlia care and culture would be great. We are doing an Advertisement Exchange with the American Horticultural Society. They are putting an ad in our Bulletin in September and we will put an ad in their publication this fall. Their circulation number is higher than ours, so we are getting a lot of exposure. Linda has received their ad for the September Bulletin. The magazine is The American Gardener.
- All American Selections – An organization that has deemed these plants as “All American Selection”, We have made a proposal to them to make all of our Dudley, Hart and Gullikson medals to be included to be deemed “All Selection”. We have not heard back from them yet. It is hoped they will approve of our judging program and approve those dahlias as the best.
- Amazon Smiles – If you purchase items through the Amazon Smiles link and ADS is chosen as the charity, we will get a contribution from each sale. It was available but hadn’t been set up. Charles has set it up with the bank information. We received a \$260.00 donation through Bright Funds, LLC, which is an aggregator of corporate contributions. Is in the process of setting up his account with him; he needed to set up an email address tied to your website, which Sharon got set up. There was a suggestion to get the word out by putting a blurb in the Bulletin and something sent to the ADS Reps occasionally to remind them. Information is on the website and

Brad set the next meeting for November 10, 2019 and said he would many at the National Show and Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan. NOTE: The date of the meeting was subsequently moved to November 17, 2019 at 4:00 pm EST.

Bob Schroeder moved, and Charles Miehme seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 pm EDT on Sunday July 14, 2019.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder
ADS Secretary