

## **American Dahlia Society**

### **Minutes – Board Meeting**

**June 28, 2020**

#### **Present**

Board members present were: Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Tony Evangelista, Terry Schroeder, Charles Miehm, Ron Miner, Jerry Landerholm, Dana Miller, John Morton, Drew Brant, Lou Paradise, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Alan Fisher, Claudia Biggs, Cheryl Shores, Bob Schroeder, Elva Sellens, Art Haskins, Rosemary Freeman, Debbie Pavich, Larry Smith, Nick Weber, Roger Walker, Marilyn Walton, Anna Kandra, Steve Lamb.

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

#### **Remembrances**

Brad Freeman asked for a moment of remembrances. James Monnahan of the Dahlia Society of Wisconsin passed away recently. Jim was a long-time member and exhibitor in the Midwest Conference. The board had a moment of silence for all.

#### **Minutes**

**Lou Paradise moved, and Art Haskins seconded to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2020 Board Meeting, as written.**

#### **OFFICERS REPORTS**

##### **President**

Brad Freeman reports that we need to put 2020 on hold and encourage local societies to take a breather this year. Hopefully, we will be able to move forward more normally in 2021. This is a good year to try some new things with dahlias, grow, enjoy, and share them. Mark Oldenkamp did suggest that judging chairs should give credit in 2021 to people who judge in trial gardens in 2020.

##### **Treasurer**

Charles Miehm submitted the following report. As of May 31, 2020, the end of our fiscal year, the Ameriprise Account has \$61,720.00 restricted and \$18,655.10 unrestricted. In the Vanguard account there is \$73,386.57. The Wells Fargo account has \$68,267.79. Of the amounts in the Wells Fargo account, there is \$2,318.02 in the Virus Fund and \$37,077.06 in the Genome Project. There is \$50.00 for the 2021 National Show, \$2,775.00 for the 2022 National Show and \$50.00 for the 2023 National Show. The total restricted amount in the Wells Fargo account is \$42,270.08. There is a total of \$222,029.46 in all accounts. Charles reports there is a balance in the trust fund with USPS so Dave Hines can mail the *Bulletin* from the post office in Indiana and the amount will be taken out of that trust account. Charles explained the line item, Store Purchases PayPal Reimbursed is reimbursement to local societies for publications sold through the ADS store. Charles registered our 501 c 3 status with PayPal, so we are receiving a slightly lower discount rate. We now have a credit card for recurring charges so we can put those on the credit card instead of writing a check. **Alan Fisher moved**

**and John Morton seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit.**

**The motion passed.** Charles brought up the possibility of having companies that we have used for years to bill us directly to cut down on the amount of reimbursement to officers and board members, which would make it cleaner with the IRS. Charles reports that in looking at membership numbers, we appear to be about equal to previous years.

### **President**

Brad Freeman reports we have put 2020 on hold due to Covid-19 pandemic. The ADS is encouraging local societies to take a breather this year, step back. We have felt it is not prudent to move forward. Hopefully, we will move forward this year. Enjoy your dahlias this year and try some new ideas.

### **First Vice-President**

Mark Oldenkamp reports he has made a few updates to the GroupVine list for ADS Presidents and ADS Reps. Those folks that will need to judge trial gardens or other opportunities that the Judging Chairs provide credit for that experience. There is no penalty for not doing anything but should receive credit.

## **REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS**

### **Mid Atlantic Conference**

Dana Miller reports The Mid-Atlantic Conference does not have a lot of news to report.

The National Capital Dahlia Society was able to conduct a tuber sale in the early spring for their members by special order and pick-up. The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society distributed over 1200 free tubers to its members. The efforts were led by former GPDS president Wes Bowers. In lieu of payment, he suggested that our members donate to a local food bank or other charity.

The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society picnic, September Dahlia Show at Longwood Gardens, and November quarterly meeting have been canceled. We confirmed this at a Zoom executive board meeting this past week. The pandemic and the fact that the ADS insurance would not cover any liability arising from complaints from members contracting the coronavirus made us decide not to try to find alternate sites. A virtual GPDS Dahlia Show via Facebook or Instagram, with members providing photos of their prize-winning dahlias, is in the planning stages.

The NCDS reported some good news. Once again, they have planted the Leroy Nordahl Memorial Trial Garden in Derwood, Maryland. They are to be commended for their efforts to maintain some semblance of normalcy in these bizarre times. They are currently doing maintenance and plan to be able to get it judged. They are waiting until late July to determine whether they will conduct their show. Like every other club, future functions are up in the air.

### **Midwest Dahlia Conference**

Randy Foith reports the Midwest Dahlia Conference is working through this pandemic along with the rest of this country and the world to be precise! All the local tuber and plant sales have been affected in some way. Many of those sales were successfully run with on-line sales, thanks to the talented tech members of the local societies. The Midwest Dahlia Conference Show scheduled in Elkhart, IN for the Labor Day weekend

has been cancelled and rescheduled for 2022, a very thoughtful act by the Elkhart Dahlia Society to take it on in 2022. Many Midwest Societies have cancelled their shows, meetings, picnics, and other functions for 2020. Friendships are the crowning achievements that should showcase every society! The Dahlia Society of Ohio is continuing to plan for the 2021 National/ Midwest Show in Wooster, OH. We encourage all to be safe and to use the utmost "common sense"!

Members here are using this time to hone their dahlia skills and to try new techniques and other growing practices. We encourage our Midwest Growers to continue their vigilance as to keeping a watchful eye for signs of "virus". Let's be hopeful for a calmer 2021 season!

In closing we are saddened with the passing of James Monnahan of the Dahlia Society of Wisconsin. Jim was long time member and exhibitor here in our conference. Our condolences to the Monnahan Family.

### **Pacific Northwest Conference**

Mark Oldenkamp reports the PNDC finally resorted to hold our annual meeting via Zoom instead of being able to have an in-person meeting with the additional of some educational programming that was in the works. We will attempt that version in 2021.

In Oregon, a couple of the societies tried alternate tuber sales approaches. My home society in Portland worked together to create an online store which was highly successful. The local sales format used in Lane County also resulted in a positive experience. I believe these positive experiences may lead to considering different approaches to selling donated tubers in the future.

From what I am hearing, several of the PNDC societies have decided not to host a show in 2020. There are still a few societies that are looking at options to still have a show, possibly with a modified format but social distancing guidelines will be an essential component of any effort.

I saw the Canby Trial Garden in late May and the pre-started plants appeared to be adjusting to their new home quite well. Based on my garden, I would expect that we could have some first blooms by mid-July. Some creative effort will be needed to help get the entries judged, but I have heard many positive comments from judges looking forward to helping with this. We hope to encourage some from societies other than just Portland to judge.

I will be checking with US-based PNDC societies to make sure they understand the value of the ADS Insurance program and the value of having this coverage even if they do not host a show. The coverage is important to protect the society for all activities including regular meetings, tuber, and plant sales, etc.

I hope that all societies are making their members aware of the opportunity to use Amazon Smile to benefit the American Dahlia Society. <https://smile.amazon.com/>

### **Pacific Southwest Conference**

John Morton reports It has been quiet since the last meeting. Several of the societies had on-line tuber sales. They were a lot of work, but we were glad to get the tubers out to the public instead of dumping them. We had the tuber/cutting availability list online and sent that site information to the list of people that we send tuber sale and dahlia

show information. They sent back their choices and were billed for what they ordered. PayPal was the main money collection point as we collected no dirty money. There was one pickup site and the times for pickup were staggered. They drove up with their invoice in the window and we put their order in the trunk of the car. No touch, no virus.

It is my understanding that all Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference shows have been canceled although there is a yearning to have a society virtual showing just to keep our competitive juices flowing.

Our San Leandro community gardens have grown. We have two gardens in downtown San Leandro, one in Lake Side Park in Oakland next to Lake Merritt and one in Alameda that has become an instant hit. This one is at a mortuary that we used for growing dahlias 10-12 years ago. The Dahlia Society of California still has the jewel, The Dahlia Dell, in Golden Gate Park and the Monterey Bay Society has dahlias growing all over Santa Cruz.

We continue to do the best we can do under the virus/lack of water/upcoming fire season conditions.

### **Southern States Conference**

There is still no representative for the Southern States Conference.

### **Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers**

Drew Brant reports the Federation canceled their judging training but will hold their summer workshop via Zoom on June 25. One club, Grays Harbor is planning a one-day outside show in early August. Another club, Kitsap, is also hoping to do a one-day outdoor show and Snohomish continues to work on having some type of show. The Pacific Northwest Trial Garden has been planted and they anticipate being able to have it judged. We are all trying to do everything safely. Various clubs in the Federation are looking at different ways to get dahlias out to the public and the possibility of doing some garden tours and small table shows.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Classification**

Lou Paradise reports with everything on hold, there is not much to report; more questions than answers. He will not be sending out paperwork for reporting blue and higher awards. Because there will be few shows and those will likely be limited, the results will not be collected this year. Classification changes are not being evaluated this year but will carry over to 2021. Any Head Table/Court of Honor show report information can go into the *Bulletin*. We can also include Trial Garden and Seedling Bench Evaluation information in a separate page to be sent with the *Bulletin*. There will not be a 2021 CHD. Members will be encouraged to keep their 2020 CHD for use in 2021. Some will need to be printed for new members and those who need a new one. There was discussion about the CHD being a value of membership. We do need to think about what, if anything, we can do to maintain the value of membership. Since there is not a new CHD in 2020, new originations that are being scored and introduced in 2020, which will be included in a separate sheet inserted in the December *Bulletin*. All new introductions need to go through the Classification Chair so he can ensure

compliance. The Trial Garden and Seedling Bench Evaluation Chairs will work with the Classification Chair on providing results. The Composite was supposed to be reprinted in 2020; this will be delayed until 2021.

### **Editor**

Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook reports delivery of the March 2020 *Bulletin* was fraught with problems, with whole swaths of the country failing to receive it during the month of March. According to Dave Hines, this was due to post office issues, as well as some impacts of COVID-19. By the middle of April, I had requested that Elva send replacement copies of *The Bulletin* to those who had not yet received theirs, which she did. Following several conversations with Dave, I think that all members did eventually receive a copy of the March *Bulletin* by the end of May 2020. (Predictably, some received their original *Bulletin* as well, following their receipt of replacement Bulletins!)

Surprisingly, the June *Bulletin* and 2020 Judging Roster has been printed and began arriving in the homes of members by June 19 or 20. Historically, the June Bulletin is filled with information and registration materials for the ADS National Show, and features the signature show logo or art on the cover. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 National Show, Linda had to re-focus the June Bulletin's traditional focus. A theme of a lot of the June club reports was the aftermath of COVID-19 and cancellations of their club events, with their disappointment and sense of loss coming through in what they submitted. Because it felt a little gloomy, I decided to use a photo by one of our ADS winning photographers, Trevor Hoff. The photo features a triple bloom display of Aitara Caress with a couple bursting fireworks on either side, providing a festive feeling for this *Bulletin*. I also made an executive decision to go through some old ADS *Bulletins* to find an article that might be currently of interest to our readers. This article was titled "Dahlia History" by Russell Cowan of New Brunswick, Canada, and gave us some interesting information from the early days of dahlia exhibition. Keith Hammett also allowed us to include an article that he wrote for Facebook, talking about his experiences in breeding collarettes. Dave was able to print this article in color, which helped to make the article more relevant and interesting than if it had been printed in black and white.

Linda stated she receives a PDF of the *Bulletin* once it has been sent to the postal service that can be put up on the website. They will continue to have the Bulletins scanned as the scanned ones are searchable.

Deadline for the September Bulletin will be July 15.

### **Finance Committee**

The economy and the country are likely to continue on "pause." There is not much new to report.

1. The finances have not deteriorated. We have sufficient assets and cash to meet Society obligations through the end of the year. See the Treasurers Report for detail
2. We recommend that the Society continues with the donation envelope in the September Bulletin. Activities for the donations need to be identified.
3. A dahlia auction should be reexamined. An event produced by the ADS would be competing against several of our local societies. A US/Canada effort will take considerable

effort and the net proceeds are not likely to be considerable, even if the dahlia tubers were donated.

4. Support for the Virus and Genome projects are subjects for Board consideration.

5. The Committee has supported the continued acquisition of the PSDA Handbook for legitimate new members. It provides value and encouragement for new members. Bulk cost is \$3.75

### **Garden Dahlias**

Alan Fisher reports with local societies unable to hold meetings or tuber/plant sales, it is difficult to know how to reach new growers who want to move up from mass merchant tubers (if available) to the (hopefully) better stock that our societies make available. Hopefully, we can provide useful material again once we can return to normal conditions. Waiting four years to get to Wenatchee is a big disappointment. Hopefully, at least some shows can go on this year. For public gardens, social distancing makes it difficult to know how we can do work and judging sessions. In a world of social distancing, videos would be a next best way to proceed.

Perhaps a good way to go for garden dahlias, in addition to videos, would be to set up a committee of experienced growers and judges who would take questions and become mentors at a distance for those new to dahlias. If others like this idea, perhaps we could get a few volunteers to work with Alan by virtual conference to get this going. We could take notes and provide summaries of interesting or informative sessions for the Garden Dahlia section on the ADS web page.

Alan stated he would like to see a small committee started to answer questions for new growers. Kristine said she sent an email asking those in her area who would like to be mentored and she was able to get them hooked up with mentors. It could be done on Facebook, other social media, and the web page. We would need people from various parts of the country and Canada.

### **Image Library**

Claudia Biggs reports there has been no activity recently. She is wondering if a New Introductions program will be required for 2021. It was felt we should do a New Introduction DVD if there are new originations being introduced.

### **Insurance**

Cheryl Shores provided a list of the societies that I have not had a request for a Certificate of Insurance (COI) or received payment. Some of these societies may have sent their requests directly to Mercer, but she has not received documentation or payment. Our insurance runs from March 15 to March 14 annually. It covers any injury or accident that occurs during any event the local society hold. All societies should have insurance to cover any events, even in this year where there may not be many events held. Every society should be paying for their insurance each year. It was recommended to send out to the ADS Reps/Presidents information regarding the importance of having insurance. Societies can renew at any time.

## **Judging Accreditation**

Bob Schroeder reports There has been little action in the judging community, most clubs have cancelled or have put their workshop and shows on hold. The judging program for advancing judges will be placed on hold as recommended. There will not



be any advancements considered for this year. On a lighter side, the Federation cancelled their spring workshop where certificates and pins are given to individuals who are new judges or advancing. The certificates were mailed to all recipients. He reports he receives many comments regarding how much it means to members to receive the pins/certificates, as evidenced by this photo he received.

Bob stated he is interested in putting together a committee to update the *ADS Judging Manual*. He will be doing this soon.

Annie Walker advanced to Accredited Judge.

## **Membership**

Elva Sellens reports she has been slowly getting in a few memberships since our last meeting. She mailed out 33 US and 4 Canadian new membership packets this week. She underestimated the amount of 2020 Classification books that she would need and had to wait to receive more books in order to mail out some of the new member packets. To date, she has only received half of the classification books that I asked to have sent.

### **US Membership**

We have 56 Participating Societies and 2 Affiliated Societies. There are 1,002 individual memberships and 492 family memberships (x2= 984) for a total of 1,986 US members.

### **Canada**

We gave 9 Participating Societies and 1 Affiliated Society. There are 87 individual members and 56 family memberships (x2= 90) for a total of 177 members.

### **Other Foreign**

There are 15 other foreign memberships.

## **National Exhibition**

Art Haskins reports there has been no new information regarding national shows.

## **New Society Coordinator**

Rosemary Freeman reports she has had no new requests for information on starting a new society.

## **Photography**

Debbie Pavich reports the information for the 2020 Photo Contest has been posted on the ADS website and publicized in the *Bulletin*. It is hoped it will be a nice way for dahlia lovers to share their blooms and gardens this year.

## **Publicity and PR**

Larry Smith reports with nearly all dahlia-related events being cancelled, not much has been going on to promote, but this would be a good time for PR on Trial Gardens, hybridization, and general gardening tips that would be of use to ADS members and the general public. If anyone has something you would like done, let Larry know. If anyone has video of gardens or education information, send it to Larry; he can edit it with music and graphics to be uploaded to YouTube and Vimeo, which would make it easily shared. Kristine Albrecht has created some very useful short videos, now on the ADS website, that Larry has been sharing locally.

Larry reached out to the military reporter for the Kitsap Sun, the local publication for the Schroeders, with notification about their being awarded the ADS Gold Medal. Terry has indicated she was notified that she and Bob will be featured in an article after their dahlias are blooming so an appropriate themed photo can be included.

Just for fun, here is an example of something that can be put together in a short time. This one features my "God-dogs," in response to our local community TV station asking for short filler videos. The footage was shot with a smartphone and I own rights to the Final Cut Pro X editing software that allows me to put on the music, transitions, and graphics.

<https://youtu.be/CXKxqfOcovU>

## **Seedling Bench Evaluation**

Roger Walker reports anticipating that 2020 shows will be severely curtailed, he is proposing the following procedures for the 2020 ADS Bench Evaluation. Should any clubs hold a show that includes a bench evaluation class they would be responsible for printing the materials (templates available online) and reporting results to the ADS bench evaluation chair.

I would like this process (with any needed modifications) approved at the June 28, 2020 ADS board meeting.

Once approved, the process will be emailed to the ADS reps and presidents distribution list and will also be posted online.

Because of the variability and uncertainty of shows in 2020 there will be no **formal** bench evaluation this year

- However, individual societies holding shows may host bench evaluations to accommodate local hybridizers
- There will be no 2020 Dudley medals or 2020 Gullikson medals for bench evaluation
- Clubs holding regular or modified shows that wish to hold bench evaluations will have to print their own materials; copies are available on the ADS website and instructions will be emailed to all clubs
- No ADS bench evaluation ribbons will be mailed to individual clubs in 2020



- Any club hosting a bench evaluation in 2020 **must** submit results to the bench evaluation chair, Roger Walker. Those results include entry tags, scoresheets, and transmittal sheets.
- 2020 scores may be used for advertising purposes by hybridizers introducing varieties in 2021; no 2021 introduction will win a Dudley or Gullikson medal for bench scores.
- 2020 scores for varieties not introduced in 2021 will be combined with 2021 scores when tabulating Dudley and Gullikson medal winners
- 2019 scores for varieties not introduced in 2020 or 2021 will be combined with 2020 and 2021 scores when tabulating Dudley and Gullikson medal winners (per temporary rule change outlined on ADS website).
- There will be a 2020 seedling bench evaluation report in the ADS Bulletin.

These recommendations were approved by the board. Roger Walker will finalize the message and send to Mark Oldenkamp to be sent to ADS Reps and Presidents. It was noted this cannot be perceived as the ADS sanctioning any events done by a local society.

### **Social Media**

Anna Kandra reports there still isn't a lot to report on the social media front for May and June. The social justice movements and continuing pandemic have made things interesting across social media platforms. I expect as we close in on campaign/election season, this will continue. I'll continue to keep in touch with Sharon regarding how best to highlight new information being added to the ADS website.

I would also like to take a deeper look at the ADS Group on Facebook (not the public page) to determine whether or not we should identify some posting guidelines and encourage a bit more discussion about forms, growing and showing. A large percentage of the "members" in that group are not ADS members, it would be great to find a way to encourage some of them to consider joining in some capacity.

I hope everyone continues to stay well, the time in the garden helps when everything else seems to be upside down.

### **Special Awards**

Jerry Landerholm reports Special Awards is taking a wait-and-see approach to the rest of 2020. If requested, medals will be engraved and forwarded for presentation. There's little more to add except to wish for you the best of luck as we move forward. Jerry appreciates the thoughtful leadership we have received from the Executive Board, particularly since this late winter.

### **Trial Garden**

Marilyn Walton and Jerry Zierdt report as of this morning, they have five gardens reporting that they are planted and growing. These gardens report that they do not anticipate any problems with completing judging. Our responding gardens are New York, Minnesota, Bonneyville, Tacoma, Piper Creek. Spokane responded that they are getting our emails and that they will soon send us a list of their entries. They have not heard anything from Mid-Atlantic and Canby

Their complete spreadsheet should be together soon. They will continue to work with the directors.

### **Virus Update**

Ron Miner reports Professor Pappu states that Dr. Prabu Gnanasekaran is making progress on the tissue culture work. Inputs from Hanu's contacts in Europe have helped to guide the root development portion of the project. Their ability to multiply clean stock may not be too far in the future. Nick Weber has identified a more traditional approach to that objective; using leaf cuttings, a colleague of his produces hundreds of plants from just a few tubers each year. We will be testing some of that stock this summer.

The responses to the opportunities for clubs to test plants for propagation for clean stock for spring 2021 sales and for vendors to test plants for improving their stock have been small. In light of WSU's ongoing laboratory operating limitations for Covid-19 protection, that result is okay. We won't try to increase participation this year.

### **Genome Sequencing**

Kristine Albrecht reports with the sequencing lab still closed there is no new information.

### **Website**

Sharon Swaney reports the last couple of months have been reasonably slow for website work. She has made the usual seasonal updates to information and added a new "class" to Dahlia University on staking dahlias, based on information provided by many of you. I am always open to suggestions and help with more classes for the university curriculum.

I am making headway on the *Bulletin* search feature for the website. I have purchased the search plugin, **Wordpress FullText Search** for the new feature. After testing the new search capability, this feature will not be perfect. The *Bulletins* have been constructed and processed under various versions of Adobe Acrobat over decades, so the results are not perfectly consistent. I did find the plugin easy to set up and easy to use from the end user's standpoint. I will be loading the *Bulletins* in batches, newest first, and once I get a few decades loaded I will release the new feature.

The new feature will be isolated from the rest of the website into a sub-domain, which is immaterial to the end user, but should have benefits for the organization, simplicity, clarity, and possibly security of the process. Though the new search will not be perfect it will make it much easier to find something in an archived *Bulletin*. The *Bulletin* search will be available to members only. It was pointed out that the new search function on *Bulletins* is an added value for the membership.

The plugin has an unlimited license, so I hope to eventually use it to enhance the current general site search capability. The standard Wordpress search capability (currently being used) does not search pdf and other file types, it searches pages and posts. This means that it does not search the content of the articles on the Articles Page of the site, or other files available throughout the site. The standard search only sees the titles or references listed on a page/post. Using the plugin also for the current site would yield a much more thorough search.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Bulletin** ~ Sharon is working on the search function on the ADS website, which is going well and will be a great addition. Harry has scanned Bulletins back to the 1930s and will get those scanned and on the website.

### Judging Manual

At the last meeting Bob was planning to put together a committee. He will be contacting persons throughout the ADS to participate on the committee. Classification, Trial Garden and Seedling Bench evaluation will be on the committee.

### Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, September 13 via Zoom. We need to encourage members to participate as we need to have 25 to have an annual meeting. It is primarily reporting but a few items to be taken care of. We will send a notice out via Reps regarding the date and time. The meeting will be at 1 pm Pacific Daylight Time on September 13, 2020. This year is the election of officers, so it is important to encourage members to complete their ballot.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Honorarium

The board makes a recommendation for membership to vote. Typically, the honorarium for both treasurer and secretary has been \$100 per year. Last year in reviewing the Boeke Funds, the Executive Committee found a provision that provides the ADS treasurer an honorarium of \$250 per year. There was discussion regarding increasing both honorariums to \$250. **Roger Walker moved and Lou Paradise seconded to increase the honorarium to \$250 for secretary and treasurer, with the amount for the secretary from the general fund and the amount for the treasurer from the Boeke fund. The motion passed.**

### Clarification of Requirements to Become Accredited Judge

Bob Schroeder stated it came to his attention when a candidate was trying to advance after just one year. In the requirements, it does not specifically state the time but does insinuate a three-year time. The requirements were rewritten to provide specific time periods. There are specifics for advancing from accredited to senior and he feels there should be specifics for advancing from candidate to accredited as well. There were some suggestions on the wording to ensure it is clear. Bob will work with Roger Walker to ensure the wording and punctuation is accurate and look at it again at the next meeting and approve it.

### Seedling Bench Evaluation

This is a message regarding rules for SBE for 2020 clarifying what we have already talked about. The message will be put on the ADS website. There is not likely to be many shows this year. If any clubs want to have a show and plan to have a Seedling Bench Evaluation, they will print out the materials from the website and must send the results to Roger. He will put a SBE report in the *Bulletin*. He will finalize the message and send to Mark for distribution to ADS Reps/Presidents. Brad stressed the ADS cannot be perceived as sanctioning any activities this year.

## **Trial Garden**

There was discussion regarding having medals for the trial garden. There are concerns about giving the awards. It was stated there is an implied contract when originators entered their dahlias in the trial garden, they would be eligible for awards. It was suggested to hold off on this, see how the judging is going and make sure all trial gardens are being judged. Marilyn was asked to report to Brad by September 6 how things are going. Then Brad can bring it to the Executive Committee and make an announcement at the Annual Meeting.

The next meeting is set for November 8 at 4 pm Eastern Standard Time.

**Brad Freeman adjourned the meeting at 6:29 pm EST. The motion passed.**

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder  
ADS Secretary