

American Dahlia Society

Board meeting

February 6, 2022

President Brad Freeman called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm EST by President Brad Freeman.

Present

Board members present were Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Tony Evangelista, Terry Schroeder, Charles Miehm, Jerry Landerholm, Harry Rissetto, Ron Miner, Dana Miller, James Romer, Alli Richards, Lou Paradise, Alan Fisher, Heather Ramsay, Cheryl Shores, Mel Epstein, Bob Schroeder, Elva Sellens, Art Haskins, Rosemary Freeman, Debbie Pavich, Larry Smith, Roger Walker, Marilyn Walton, Anna Kandra, and Sharon Swaney. Guests Steve Lamb and Lynda Quinn were also present.

Remembrances

Clara Almand passed away recently.

Minutes

Linda DeRooy Holmes Cook moved, and Lou Paradise seconded to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2021 meeting as corrected. There was a correction in the membership numbers for the Southwest Idaho Dahlia Society. The correct wording is “Southwest Idaho Dahlia Society has seventeen members of which fourteen are new members. The motion passed.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President

Brad Freeman reported the Executive Committee met on January 30th to discuss the insurance program for the ADS. One of the items of discussion was the quote, obtained from Mercer, for Directors, Officers and Organization Liability and Employment Practices Liability Insurance. Mel Epstein, Insurance Chair, made a clear and concise explanation of the insurance and the need for it. The Executive Committee voted to proceed with obtaining the proposed insurance at a cost of \$813. Another item of discussion at the Executive Committee meeting was the general liability insurance that the ADS offers to the local dahlia societies. The consensus was the local dahlia societies need more information on the general liability insurance including what is covered and what the exclusions are. Mel will prepare an informational sheet on the general liability insurance that he will send to the local dahlia societies as they renew their insurance this spring.

The survey of the ADS membership is underway; so far, we have approximately 425 responses. Once the survey is completed the data will be analyzed; the plan is to have a report on the survey ready for the April 22-24 Executive Board meeting in Portland. Brad thanked Tony Evangelista, Heather Ramsay, and Sharon Swaney for their help with the survey questions and making it available to the ADS members.

We have a new manager for the ADS Store on the website. Dan Baulig, Portland Dahlia Society, has volunteered to fill the position. Dan is enthusiastic about being a part of the

ADS management team. There will be a transition period as the store inventory is moved from Cammi Waggoner (previous Store Manager) to Dan. Brad thanked Cammi for the time she devoted to the ADS.

Jess Becker has been diligently working to secure advertising for the Bulletin. Many years ago, we had a Business Partner Program which was mothballed due to the lack of participation. He talked with Jess about resurrecting the program with a few tweaks to conform to our existing policies. We will share our discussions at an upcoming Executive Board meeting.

We will be discussing bylaw changes later in this meeting. There have been previous discussions regarding changing the title of the National Exhibition Committee to National Show Committee. Another bylaw change is eliminating the Technology Resource Committee, which has been vacant for a number of years. Also, we discussed changing the status of some of the non-voting members of the Executive Board such as ADS Store Manager and Bulletin Advertising Manager. The thought would be to make them voting members. If we proceed with any bylaw changes, they need to be announced in the June Bulletin for consideration at the Annual Meeting in September.

Each fall there is a big push to finalize results of the Trial Gardens and Seedling Bench Evaluations by October 15th, so the information is in the December Bulletin. At the same time Lou Paradise is hard at work preparing the Classification and Handbook of Dahlias so it can be printed in time to be delivered in December. This end of the year scramble puts a lot of pressure on those volunteering for those tasks and on occasion, results in erroneous information being published. We need to have firm deadlines for submitting trial garden and seedling bench results and adhere to them. Also, if there are corrections to be made to the published seedling information we try to make it available on the website as soon as it is known. In some cases, the seedling information on the website will be more up to date than what is published in the December Bulletin. It is worth checking the website around the first of December if you are interested in the seedling results for the year.

Plans are underway for the in-person Executive Board Meeting on April 22 – 24th in Portland. Some information about the meeting was received from Mark Oldenkamp; more will be coming.

Treasurer

Charles Miehme presented the find the treasurer's report as of Dec 31, 2021. This is the report that will be published in the March Bulletin. We ended up with a deficit but are fiscally sound. Financials are reported on a cash basis. Based on unrestricted funds, ADS has a sound financial basis for the year 2021. Charles has asked for more detail from Dave Hines so he can put together a report for discussion of membership and printing costs at the planning meeting in April. **Bob Schroeder moved, and Ron Miner seconded to approve the financial report subject to audit. The motion passed.**

TOTAL ADS FUNDS AS OF 12/31/2021

Ameriprise Account (restricted)	\$ 49,200.00
Ameriprise Account (unrestricted)	\$ 22,019.58
Vanguard Account	\$ 76,014.12
Wells Fargo Account	\$ 86,382.31
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	\$ 233,616.01
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Total Unrestricted	<hr/>
	\$ 102,615.00

RESTRICTED FUNDS

(These funds are included in the Wells Fargo bank balance listed above)

Virus Fund - Sheetz-Chuey Foundation	\$ 1,998.02
Genome Project	\$ 75,727.99
2022 National Show	\$ 2,775.00
2023 National Show	\$ 1,300.00
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Total Restricted	\$ 81,801.01

First Vice-President

Mark Oldenkamp reports there have been quite a few updates to ADS Reps and Society Presidents. These have been updated in GroupVine. I appreciate the new volunteer for the store and those newer folks who are stepping up in various committee leadership roles.

Plans for the spring planning meeting took a step forward last week. We now have the contract signed and received the reservation code for the hotel. A separate invitation will be out soon so we can make sure we have enough food prepared. The Portland Society is seeking \$750 from ADS to support the costs of the meeting site and meals. We will have a lunch and a dinner on Saturday. Portland and the Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference looks forward to hosting a productive meeting. He should have the registration information for the spring planning meeting out to board members soon. Mark asked for \$750 from the ADS to help offset the costs of this meeting, which is allowed in the bylaws.

Time to wake up the dahlia for cuttings and to prepare for planting. Hoping for a return to a much more normal growing and exhibition season.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT – Tony Evangelista

Tony Evangelista reports the ADS survey to members is ongoing until February 9. I am looking forward to the results to help better tailor and position the ADS to our membership. I also hope we can reach out more effectively to recruit the members of local societies that are not also members of the ADS. There are a large number of

potential members in this category. We need to understand their reasons for not being ADS members and try to satisfy and service their needs.

THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT – Ken Jensen

Ken Jensen reports he is working on a proposal for an award to honor gardens that adhere to good cultural practices in their garden. He will have more information about this at our meeting in April.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

MID ATLANTIC CONFERENCE – Dana Miller

Dana Miller reports once again it's the middle of winter and most of their conference members are enjoying the downtime from their gardens. They are also planning and dreaming of the next dahlia season!

The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society is looking forward to their first in-person meeting since the pandemic began, scheduled for March 12th at Longwood Gardens. They are excited to have many new members. Currently there seems to be great popularity in dahlias and interest in growing them. This is further substantiated by the number of commercial dahlia growers that are sold out of a high percentage of their varieties, which seems to have happened earlier than before. The "cabin fever" of the pandemic has also fueled an interest in gardening and in the spectacular dahlia. The challenge now will be for us to hold these new members' interest, as well as keep our long-time members involved. They plan to have strong educational sessions at meetings and more frequent informative emails to go along with their quarterly *Dilly Dahlia...ing* newsletters. They also hope to set more members on the path to becoming judges.

The GPDS tuber sale is scheduled for May 14th, also at Longwood Gardens. They expect a great deal of demand for our tubers, considering the general shortage from commercial growers. They have a society picnic scheduled in August, their annual show for Sept 16-18, and fall meeting on November 5.

The Gettysburg Dahlia Society has scheduled their first meeting of the year on March 12, at the Harbaugh Library in Biglerville, where they will conduct an early tuber sale as well as pot some tubers for future sales. A tuber sale for the general public will also be held at the Harbaugh Library on May 14. Their annual Dahlia Show is set for September 2-4, 2022, at the library.

The National Capital Dahlia Society is preparing for a big year. They will be hosting the ADS National Show in Reston, VA from September 22 to 25, 2022. Rich Gibson and Kathleen Hoxie are co-chairs for the event. NCDS has scheduled over twenty-five events leading up to the "Big Show." Their ten regular monthly meetings will feature topics on growing, planting, and caring for dahlias. They will once again be doing a lot of work to continue their Trial Garden in Derwood MD; planting is scheduled for May 22. Add to that a mid-summer show and four or so tuber sales. It's a good thing they have a large, involved membership. It boggles my mind thinking of so many activities!

Congratulations to NCDS's very own Rich Gibson on winning two Lynn Dudley awards for his introductions of 20th Ave Pure Prince and 20th Ave Old Major. Old Major also won a Derrill Hart Medal.

The Mid-Atlantic Conference wishes all a successful growing season.

MIDWEST CONFERENCE – Randy Foith

Randy Foith hopes that all are doing well. The Midwest Dahlia Conference (MDC) Board is still in the process of revitalizing the MDC website, which should be completed soon. The Midwest Dahlia Report, their quarterly, has been a success with all the MDC growers. It serves as a source of information, technical information, show dates, contacts and more.

The Elkhart DS is busy with all of the things that go into hosting the MDC Annual Spring Meeting and Plant Auction at the High Dive Pavilion in Elkhart, IN. They will also host the 2022 and 87th MDC Show in Shipshewana, IN. This event will be somewhat identical to the 2021 show in that it will be in the heart of Indiana Amish Country.

They are hoping for some valuable information from the ADS Questionnaire to help in staying off the painful lack of adequate participation in our local societies. Keep dreaming dahlias as the new season is approaching fast.

NORTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE – Ed Bonci

Brad Freeman reported he has had contact with Ed Bonci who reports that he is no longer able to fill the position of the North Atlantic Conference Regional Vice President. Brad will be contacting the leaders of the local societies in that area to try to find a replacement and get them reenergized.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE – Mark Oldenkamp

Mark Oldenkamp reports the societies of the Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference vary in the activity level during these Covid-impacted times. Some societies are meeting regularly, and others have not met in quite some time. Zoom is being embraced by some societies and others have not been able to try this. Nanaimo is doing zoom meetings again. We are hoping for better times ahead.

The Portland Dahlia Society is growing with many new members joining via our online store portal. We look forward to meeting and mentoring our new members. The Portland Society perceives that many members are anticipating the online sale like this society has done the past two years. Plans are underway for this to happen again in 2022.

Portland is also hosting the upcoming spring planning meeting for ADS leadership for April 22-24. They will conduct their annual conference meeting during those dates. They look forward to presenting some medals to our local hybridizers.

The Canby Trial Garden is fully reserved for 2022, which happened earlier than ever. The Portland Dahlia Society is having regular meetings focusing on developing structure for the making of a great 2023 National show. They look forward to hosting a spectacular celebration of dahlias in late August 2023. Fundraising has been good, and the hope is to continue this effort for the next two years with a desire to keep the cost reasonable so lots of visitors will want to come.

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE – John Morton

John Morton reports after having half their yearly rainfall in December, they haven't had any since. The weather has been cool and windy, and they even had a rare winter forest fire near Santa Cruz.

They continue to figure out where and when to have tuber sales and wondering what the show season will be like. All the PSWD Conference societies will have tuber sales,

probably all outdoors as cities and counties are letting up on the Covid rules. Our newest society plans to have demonstrations and lectures at their sale. The San Diego County Dahlia Society is rebounding well and reports several new members.

They need senior judges. The John E. Stowell Dahlia Society is planning to start their meetings up as soon as the members feel safe enough to meet together. The Dahlia Society of California show garden in Golden Gate Park is still an issue as vehicles have been banned from the park. Garden tenders have to bring in their tools and equipment from at least one-half mile from the garden.

We were unable to have our yearly conference this year. Venues we used in the past are no longer available and Zoom has been unpredictable.

SOUTHERN STATES CONFERENCE – James Romer

James Romer reports societies in the Southern States Conference are starting to meet once again with meetings starting in February. Plans are underway for tuber sales to be held at various times in Spring among other activities.

The most exciting news to come from our conference is the strong possibility of another society forming in the Piedmont (central) region of North Carolina. They are in the initial stages, but already have commitments from ten individuals. What a thrill to see people coming together to learn more about the greatest flower on earth!!

James is moving out of the area so will not be able to continue as Regional Vice President for Southern States. Brad will work with them to find a replacement.

FEDERATION OF NORTHWEST DAHLIA GROWERS – Alli Richards

Alli Richards reports the Federation board meeting is being held next Saturday, February 12th by Zoom. Their spring workshop will be in March and hopefully in person. The Jack Crawford Memorial Auction will be held via Zoom for the second time. It was a remarkable success and so much fun to participate in. I hope everyone is bitten by the dahlia bug and bids high on the tubers. These will be 2022 introductions as well as special varieties that are highly desirable in our area.

They just had their first quarterly all-council meeting on the Dahlia Legacy Project yesterday. They had great participation and got a sneak peak of the new Wiki page layout. They have two outstanding biographies created with more in process. Since the Federation has a Hall of Fame, we have been able to create starting profiles for all those members. We split each of the four regions into breakout sessions to discuss everything from our dreams for this project to ways to gather information. At the end of the meeting a deadline was set to have a starting of club histories ready to be uploaded to the Wiki by our next meeting on April 30th. They would like to pursue linking to articles in the *Bulletin* online regarding their legacy profiles.

They are looking forward to a great 2022 season and all it brings. Best wishes from the FNWDG!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advertising

Jessica Becker reports we had one new advertiser for this Bulletin; author Connie Thompson is promoting her book "Connie's Dahlias - A Beginner's Guide". In addition to this author, Kristine Albrecht will be advertising in the next issue for her book "Dahlia Breeding".

I have a call scheduled for February 9 with the publisher for "Naomi Slade - Dahlias: Beautiful Varieties for Home and Garden" to see if they might be interested in publishing an ad as well.

For next year, I'd like to explore other areas of advertising both on social media and possible email blasts to the ADS membership. It would allow us to offer other mediums that might be of interest to advertisers and offer more flexible dates which could allow for more opportunities to help them market their products.

ADS Store

Dan Baulig is the new ADS store manager. He reports he is waiting for the remainder of the boxes to come in from Cammi Waggoner, previous store manager. He has received some boxes and has started mailing orders but has about fifteen orders left to mail. Brad thanked Dan for stepping up and taking on this position.

Classification

Lou Paradise reports The Cream of the Crop and Fab 50 reports were tabulated and sent to both Sharon (Web) and Linda (Bulletin). The Composite was sent to the printer.

There have been requests for only eight cultivars for reclassification for the 2022 growing season. Lou is sure that a few more will filter in before I send the list to the Classification Committee members in July.

Editor

Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook reports The ADS March 2022 Bulletin is finished and in the hands of Parrot Press. I have told Dave that I hope this means we will be able to get it mailed BEFORE the end of February. This issue is very full, with minutes from the ADS annual meeting in September, executive board in November, annual financial report to members, insurance information, national show information and registration, Mid-West Dahlia Conference registration form, articles on powdery mildew, kaolin clay, building a garden on a rocky slope, idea for better plant tags and planting dahlia tubers vertically. We also have the Fab 50, Cream of the Crop, Stanley Johnson winner and information, update on the virus project, NW Dahlia Legacy Project, the ADS photo contest and more. We have ads from Lobaugh's, Paw Labels, Dahlia Barn and Connie Thompson. Of special note: we received reports from thirty-eight of our ADS Affiliated clubs. This is by far the best response we have had in my tenure as Editor (this issue marks the beginning of my sixth year in this job). There is something for everyone here, and the *Bulletin* is maxed out at 116 pages. Linda is trying to get a timeline from Dave Hines on the production of the *Bulletin* – from press copy to the time we get it in the mail. A lot of the process is out of Linda's hands so we need information from Dave so we can better determine how to get the *Bulletin* out in a timely manner.

Finance

Harry Risetto reports the 2021 treasurer's report reflected that the ADS operated at a deficit in 2021, largely due to the increase in membership. Nevertheless, the society is in sound financial shape as to available cash and unrestricted assets.

The Committee will monitor the finances in 2022, and it will suggest remedial actions as appropriate, e.g., dues adjustment, a reduction in expenses, or an increased emphasis on bequests and donations.

Harry would like to start a discussion about whether we should begin to move toward a hybrid form of publication, digital and hard copy.

Garden Dahlia

Alan Fisher reports he is speaking to a couple of dahlia societies in early March on early season dahlia care and growing dahlias in containers. He will make his notes available both to Sharon and Linda for access to a wider audience.

He located a copy of Steve Nowartowski's video on growing dahlias in containers. He would appreciate any suggestions from anyone who has found a high-quality firm to transfer VHS or similar format to digital for multiple copies. Please send your suggestions to AFisherADS@Yahoo.com. Once he finds a good source and obtains pricing information, he'll present a proposal for ordering copies to make available through the ADS Store.

Paula Fisher of the National Capital and Central Carolina Dahlia Societies prepared an outstanding photo tutorial on caring for dahlia tubers. With her permission and Sharon's help, it is now available in the section on caring for tubers on the web site.

With the pandemic and fewer and smaller shows, Alan is concerned that several cultivars may be removed from the 2023 CHD due to not receiving the required number of ribbons to remain in the CHD. Should ADS consider modifying the standard during the pandemic? He recommends the Classification Committee consider this question and then report back to the Board. Especially for general growers, dropping many cultivars from the current list could be a significant inconvenience.

NCDS is preparing an exciting National Show for the last full weekend in September. Since nearly all dahlia shows in North America will be over by then, we hope for a large turnout. Consider staying over to visit spectacular Harpers Ferry, WV, Gettysburg, local wineries, historic plantations, and other beautiful spots outside Washington, DC itself.

Image Library

Heather Ramsay reports the New Introductions slideshow and video are both finished and posted on the website. Contact was attempted with all new intro hybridizers in order to get photos or distributor information. There were a few whom I was not able to connect with, which was surprising. Still, the majority were reachable through email, FB message, or by contacting their local society.

In the works are a slideshow of the Fabulous 50 and (hopefully) Cream of The Crop. The Image Library is also working to help Don Filand fill in the missing photos for the Online Classification Guide.

What I would like to know from the Board is if anyone has ideas about any other way the Image Library can help serve local societies. Is there any other kind of program that

might be useful at meetings, perhaps? One Idea I had was of a slide show or video tutorial on dahlia photography? She would like any ideas of anything that would be good to come out of the image library in 2022. If someone wants to get photos to use for tuber sales, they can ask Heather as she has many photos and use pictures in the Online Classification Guide.

Insurance

Mel Epstein reports he and Charles Miehme discussed the proposed Directors & Officers and Employment Practices Liability Insurance policy at the ADS Executive Committee meeting held on Jan 30, 2022. At the conclusion of the presentation and discussion, it was decided that the coverage was complimentary to the General Liability policy already in force. It was noted that the insured parties would not only be the Corporation but also (and not limited to) all persons working directly on ADS tasks, standing committees, boards, and special assignments. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to include this insurance in the portfolio of ADS's risk management program. Mel provided the board with a brief overview of the proposed D & O and EPLI policy. Although ADS does not have paid employees, this policy covers ADS volunteers as well. The general liability policy covers bodily injury and property damage. He believes it is a good policy with broad coverage that will protect the ADS and its volunteers. There are some exclusions, but the ADS is not at substantial risk for those items.

The club liability insurance policy (General Liability) expires on March 15, 2022. On January 20, 2022 Mel Epstein submitted the required application and documentation to our insurance agents for renewal. We are awaiting receipt of the quote for the continuation of this important coverage so that societies can receive their Certificate of Insurance. Mel will be writing a short document, approved by the board, to be sent to societies that apply for the general liability insurance that explains what is and is not covered by that insurance.

Judging Accreditation

Bob Schroeder reports judging chairs for all dahlia societies have been contacted for updates on their judges for the 2022 Judging Roster. It has been requested all clubs respond by April 1, 2022 to meet the printing deadline for the June Bulletin. New and advancing judges are being sent certificates and appropriate pins upon notification by the members' judging chair. Both committees for updating the judging manual and curriculum have made significant progress.

Membership

Memberships have been steadily coming in. Since my last report as of 11/12/21, we have had 276 new U.S. memberships - 228 individual memberships and 48 family memberships (x 2= 96) for a total of 324 new U.S. members as of 2/4/22. There were 29 new Canadian memberships- 26 individual and 3 family memberships (x 2 = 6) for a total of 32 new Canadian members.

Although she sent out reminders to all of societies that had not sent in their membership lists, there are still six participating societies and three affiliated societies for which she has not received 2022 membership lists. Elva received notice from one of the participating societies they are changing to an affiliated society status because their membership dropped below the ten-member requirement.

U.S. Membership

I have received 2022 memberships lists from 52 Participating Societies and is waiting to hear from the six other participating societies and three affiliated societies. There are 1,501 memberships so far for 2022 – 1,096 individuals and 450 family membership (x 2 = 810) for a total of 1,906 members. I am happy to announce that the Yankee Dahlia Society had enough members to become a Participating Society in 2022.

There are 686 of the 2021 memberships (504 individual memberships and 182 family memberships) who have not yet renewed. 75% of these memberships are society members and the other 25% are at-large members. Of the 2021 memberships that belong to a dahlia society, 51% were new members in 2021 and at-large members were 87.8%.

Canadian Membership

For 2022, we have 160 memberships - 110 individual and 50 family memberships (x 2 = 100) for a total of 210 Canadian members. Elva complimented the Canadian membership chairs for getting their membership lists in early and on time. There are nine Canadian participating societies. New Brunswick Dahlia Society notified her last year their club was disbanding due to lack of membership.

Other Foreign Membership

There are fifteen other foreign members.

National Exhibition

Brad Freeman reports this position is still not filled. The handbook for national shows should be complete by April so we can review it then.

New Society Coordinator

Rosemary Freeman reports she continues to receive requests for starting new dahlia societies. She received an inquiry from someone wanting to start a new society in the Chicago area. Rosemary asked if she were aware of the two existing societies in her area that she could join to learn more about the dahlia and dahlia societies. Rosemary also contacted the two ADS Reps letting them know of a possible new society in their area that may need help putting this together. Both organizations contacted her with open hearts and suggested a Zoom meeting to get started. My thanks to Sue Fitzgerald from the Southtown Dahlia Society and Marian Landerholm from the Central States Dahlia Society for helping this dahlia lover. In the meantime, Rosemary sent the large packet of documents and instructional articles on how to start a new society. She realized that starting a new society is like starting a new business and that perhaps joining an existing dahlia society would serve her better at this time. She knows there is a lot to learn, and you can learn by being a part of a dahlia society. We'll be here when she's ready to start a new society in her neighborhood. There's always room for one more dahlia society.

There is a potential new society in North Carolina. The Central Carolina Dahlia Society is willing to assist this new potential society. This potential society is based in Burlington, NC and the Central Carolina Society is in the Winston-Salem area.

She will continue to ask for help in starting new societies from our ADS Reps and Regional Vice Presidents. She knows how dahlia societies work in the Pacific Northwest but will need help elsewhere in our large dahlia community

Photography

Debbie Pavich reports Over 450 photos were submitted for the 2021 photo contest. The winning photos are posted on the ADS website. Please visit the ADS website and cast your vote for your favorite photo in the people's choice award, voting ends Feb 7th.

Publicity/Public Relation

Larry Smith reports he chaired a digital photo contest for Portland Dahlia Society and is in the process of tabulating the results. He will be creating video of the entries to share on the Portland and ADS websites as well as social media. This event attracted well over 300 photos, many from various parts of the country, which was a surprise.

Portland DS has attracted members from other areas due to them joining to get notification about the club's online tuber sale, which allows them to ship all over the USA. Distant members got the PDS Bulletin and enclosed photo contest announcement, which drove up the number of entries. Larry is awaiting instruction regarding his pledge to create video for the recent ADS photo contest. Rich Gibson has reached out for help with publicity for the 2023 ADS show in the DC area. Larry has responded and is awaiting further communication regarding this request.

This is a good time to remind everyone it is important to start early when asking for publicity for your events. Media is much more likely to provide coverage if they know several months in advance what will be coming up and, even better, if you can establish a relationship with the reporters. Larry suggests 6-8 weeks in advance with reporters you already have a relationship with, several months if you are cold calling someone. Always lead with something unique about your event that will pique their interest. Larry is willing to provide tips on obtaining publicity to anyone within ADS who contacts him. Hopefully, we can further cover this subject at the ADS planning meeting.

Research and Education

Ron Miner reports considerable progress has been achieved in our virus project. There is an article in the March *Bulletin* which provides more details on that progress. The key points are as follows.

1. The most dependable source for clean stock is tubers/plants taken from plants that were tested in the previous year and found to be free of virus. We will continue to support a Clean Stock project that will allow local clubs to test stock for virus.
2. Different viruses behave differently. TMV almost always carries over in storage to yield plants infected with TMV the following season. TSWV frequently carries over into the following year. INSV frequently does NOT carry over. CMV, DMV, and DCMV have almost never been found over the last 5 years.
3. Each of the three commonly found viruses exhibit symptoms that range from severe to perfectly asymptomatic. Linda has extensively documented the appearances of the foliage. The occurrence of asymptomatic plants underscores how essential it is to disinfect your tools.

4. Clean starting stock and rigorous adherence to disinfecting tools are necessary steps for maintaining a clean garden. It is also clear, however, that those two steps may not completely eliminate infection. Thrips can bring virus in from host plants in the surrounding area – or, even more likely, from dahlias within your garden if you have virused plants there!

5. Professor Pappu's team at WSU have successfully developed the tissue culture procedures required to produce clean plants from virused stock.

6. Professor Pappu is working toward a system that will, in the long run, allow him to supply clean stock of a large number of ADS cultivars.

Action Item - We would appreciate the help of the Regional Vice Presidents in promoting the Clean Stock initiative this summer. Broad participation will let us better understand regional differences in the viruses and when and where thrips control is required. Please let me know who you have identified to take the lead role for that project in your region.

Genome Sequencing

Kristine Albrecht provided a summary of Dr. Harkess's written report. The main thing is Dr. Harkess transitioned Zach, who was a master's student to a PhD student so he will be working with dahlias for the next five to six years instead of just two. Zach and Dr. Harkess have completed five dahlia sequences to determine the size of the dahlia sets. They have sequenced four species dahlias and Thomas Edison. The plan was originally to sequence a tetraploid dahlia but with the cost of sequencing dropping they plan to build a chromosome-scale assembly of a modern octoploid, possibly Edna C or Thomas Edison. The octoploid would provide more impact. When the fully assembled genome is done a hybridizer can send a sample of one of their cultivars for a reasonable price. They would receive a report what dahlias their cultivar is closely related. It would provide information as to how your cultivar is linked to other dahlias that have been looked at.

The species dahlias are tetraploid with one type easier to assemble. They feel the species dahlias they are working with are the easier tetraploids. Zach has been in communication with herbariums, which are like a library for plant tissue and drawings. He has requested tissue samples from those historical records which can be sampled for DNA. This will help build the dahlia family tree. This will allow him to look at how modern dahlias evolve to where they are today.

Dr. Harkess is thrilled with the amount of work Zach is doing. With him being in a PhD program he will be able to expand what he is able to do. This might include the dahlia family tree, the parental genomes that create the modern dahlias, the full assembly of the octoploid dahlia and a large-scale analysis of dahlia floral variations using samples taken from the 2021 National Show. They will be applying for grants to support this program. Specialty crops such as dahlias since they are not cash crops have a more challenging time getting funding. There is competition and dahlias are not a high priority. Dr. Harkess will also be applying for private companies. There will still be a need for ADS to continue fundraising to support this project. Kristine thanks all the dahlia societies, individual donors, the family foundations who have given to this project so far. Thanks also to Dr. Harkess and Dr. Walbot for the time they give to this project.

Brad asked Elva to make sure that Dr. Harkess, Zach and Dr. Pappu are members of the ADS. Kristine will ask Dr. Harkess to participate in the spring planning meeting; Brad will provide Kristine the specific time.

Seedling Bench Evaluation

Roger Walker reports all seedling bench forms have been updated for 2022 and are posted on the ADS website. Plans are in the works to complete the application process electronically beginning this year. The application generates the mailing of forms and ribbons as needed by local societies.

The updated ADS scorecards are posted to the ADS website. The new scorecards will also be distributed to local societies along with the forms and ribbons necessary to hold their bench evaluation.

Social Media

Anna Kandra reports the following current stats:

- Facebook followers: 4,263
- Facebook group members: 6,214
- Instagram followers: 5,641

Recent posts include promoting this year's National Show, the People's Choice voting for the photo contest and the membership survey. Upcoming items will include features of the photo contest winners, information about new introductions, promotion of the new photo gallery on the website about cutting dahlia tubers. Please let us know if there are items that your club is posting that you'd like shared across the ADS social channels

Special Awards

Jerry Landerholm reports the medals for winners of the 2021 seedling bench, trial garden, Stanley Johnson and Les Connell competitions have been sent to the engraver and they should be returned soon. Upon receipt, he will add the congratulatory letters and forward them to people who, when possible, personalize the presentations. He will be contacting those who represent the ADS when mailing time comes. Thanks to our helpers in advance.

He requests the ADS Board give special awards direction before we search for the best pricing on replacement medals. The high value once placed on medals seems to be no longer the case. A number of societies have discontinued exchanging medals. The cost of minting medals is certainly a consideration, as well as the postage required to get them to their destination(s). Should some ADS medals be eliminated, or do we continue purchasing medals to maintain our current programs? We should decide if we want to keep in place all the "opportunities" to receive the various ADS medals.

Regarding current medal inventory, we have no Evie Gullikson medals and only one Derrill Hart medal remaining. There's a sufficient quantity of Connell medals that will be good for twenty-one years beyond 2022. We have six Johnson Silver Medals, and we have enough Dudley medals for no more than three years. We have a sufficient supply of the ADS Gold Plated commemorative medals and ADS Silver Medals. We need to consider the Bronze ADS medals that are given to our participating societies annually. Special Awards has less than a one-year supply. The General Secretary has a supply as well.

FYI, the current spot price of silver is less than \$23 an ounce. That is the lowest it's been in several years. Small medal orders are not appreciated by most mints. Though we have no need for large amounts of most medals as often required, we try to make combination orders, of multiple medals, to generate an order that will be accepted. Hopefully, we can continue to do this. We can touch on this in Portland to determine whether we want to continue all the medals.

Trial Garden

Marilyn Walton reports all trial gardens are up and running as usual. Spokane and Minnesota have new directors who are asking questions, as they should. She directed all trial garden directors to the new scorecards. Several responded they have upcoming regional meetings where they will cover the new scoresheets with judges.

She is trying to set up a means of communication with the Eastern Trial Garden in New York as all emails to New York have been returned. She will try to find a person involved there with email to communicate with the director.

The Victoria Dahlia Society has decided not to try setting up a trial garden right now. Some of the older members worry that getting judges to the island will be quite difficult. They will encourage more society members to consider judges training and perhaps that will solve the problems.

She hopes all are healthy and getting ready for another great dahlia season.

Website

Sharon Swaney reports ADS cyberspace has been really busy the last couple of months. A lot of year-end information was posted followed by new year information. Some highlights of the postings include:

- a beautiful new origination PDF and video for viewing, and a downloadable video for members; thanks, Heather.
- a nicely done photo gallery on cutting dahlia tubers. Thanks to Paula Fisher, Garden Bee Flower Farm, for sharing the gallery with us and to Alan for shepherding it through the process.
- Photo Contest winning photos; thanks Debbie and photographers.

In addition to the static information, we have two interactive initiatives in progress:

- We are gathering information from the membership via the online 2022 membership survey. With a few days left for members to respond we have received about 400 responses.
- New this year, a people's choice contest as part of the ADS photo contest has garnered about 750 votes!

Don Filand, an unsung hero, continues to process pictures for the Online Classification Guide (OCG). We are developing a new strategy to obtain pictures for the OCG.

Finally, work is being done to revamp the member section of the site. Look for a face lift soon. Pertinent information is always welcome for this area of the site.

OLD BUSINESS

National Show Booklet

Brad Freeman reported the booklet is still being worked on. This should be ready to be reviewed at the spring planning meeting in April.

At-Large Members

Brad Freeman states he would like to have the list of names of at-large members broken out by states to be sent to the regional vice presidents. The information has been sent to Mark and Tony. He would like to spend some time in April strategizing other things we can do regarding membership. He believes regional vice-presidents are key since they have the local connection.

NEW BUSINESS

Pricing for Classification and HD

Brad Freeman reported we are currently selling the CHD for \$5 plus shipping. We know that shipping prices have gone up. There was discussion of raising the price of the CHD and Composite books through the ADS Store. On the inside front cover, it specifies the price, including postage, so we can only increase the price for the 2023. It was recommended that we remove the sentence regarding the price, putting the website. We need to look at the price of the composite. Once we know the cost of printing and shipping, we can determine the price. The current price is \$12. The new composite weighs 13.5 ounces. Brad suggested getting the listing on the ADS store updated with a picture of the front cover and then Brad, Charles and Dan can determine what the cost will be. We should also continue to offer multiple-copy pricing.

Update of the Bylaws

Brad Freeman reported one thing we need to do is to change the name of the National Exhibition Committee to National Show Committee, since that is how we all refer to it. We have a Technology Resource Committee that was formed years ago and has been vacant for several years. It is not a committee that we need any more, especially with our current website committee. It was suggested that we have a few members that have significant roles in the ADS but do not have voting rights on the board; it is prudent to add them to the board so they have voting rights. Brad will draft a set of bylaws to discuss at the spring planning meeting for approval by the board. It would then be able to be placed in the June *Bulletin* so the membership can vote on it at the Annual Meeting.

Spring Planning Meeting 2022

Brad Freeman reported Mark Oldenkamp will be getting information out regarding the planning meeting and Brad will work on getting an agenda out by early March.

Kristine Albrecht stated the genome project will be looking at Edna C to possibly be the reference dahlia she needs to get some of those tubers in hand. Bob and Terry Schroeder have good stock of Edna C that they could send to Kristine. They will be growers who grow for the genome project; Kristine will let them know they can only use them for the genome project.

Lou Paradise reported he has been the Classification Chair for 15 years and he feels it is time for a fresh start and have someone take over as Classification Chair. Lou is

willing to complete the 2023 CHD and would like to have someone on board to work with him. It will be a challenge to find someone to replace him.

The next board meeting will be the weekend of April 22-24, 2022 during the spring planning meeting.

It was suggested to take the *Guidelines to Judging Dahlias* off the store as the new edition should be ready for the next show season.

Charles Miehlm moved, and Roger Walker seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 pm, EST.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder

ADS General Secretary