

Summary of Policies and Procedures The American Dahlia Society

March 2023 Draft

Compiled from the *Bulletin of the American Dahlia Society*, 1993 through June 2010 and the ADS Board Meeting Minutes on the ADS website **through December, 2022 (former version covered to September 2019)**. The document expands on the format developed earlier by Harry Rissetto and Mark Alger.

In March 2008, the Board concluded that this Policy Manual should include the evolution of policies over time rather than simply summarize the current policy. The following materials therefore catalog the changes in policies over time.

In 2017, the ADS Bylaws were amended to define a new Executive Committee consisting of the President and the Vice Presidents, the Immediate Past President, the Trustees, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Finance Committee Chair. The larger Board includes Committee Chairs, Regional Vice Presidents and others. This Current Draft of the Policy Manual will attempt to reduce confusion in the terminology by changing older actions to call all of the various names of the decision-makers to be the “Board” except where it was clear that the group was the new Executive Committee.

By Ron Miner

Material in bold and italicized font is new in this January 2023 Draft

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Summary of Policies and Procedures of the American Dahlia Society

I. The Statement of Mission:

The Society is formed for the purpose of stimulating interest in and promoting the culture and development of the dahlia; to establish a standard nomenclature; to test our new varieties and to give them such recognition as they deserve; to study the diseases and insects of the dahlia and find remedies for same; to disseminate information relating to the Dahlia; to secure uniform standards for judging Dahlia shows and to give exhibitions when deemed advisable.

The spring meetings of the ADS were extended to the entire weekend starting in 2005 with the objective of trying to improve the effectiveness of the entire organization. By the end of 2006, these efforts led to the development of a new set of visions, missions, and goals. They were summarized in the December 2006 Bulletin. A brief summary is included here.

American Dahlia Society Plan for the Future: September-2006

Vision Statement

To be an organization that serves all types of dahlia growers from the home gardener who just grows a few dahlias to the enthusiast who grows dahlias to exhibit and/or hybridize.

Mission Statement

The American Dahlias Society is organized to promote and encourage the development of and appreciation of the dahlia through educational and research activities and by supporting the local dahlia societies.

Goals

Promote the dahlia as a garden flower as well as a flower to be exhibited at shows and fairs.

Increase membership in ADS by 100% over the next ten years through implementation of programs that appeal to the various dahlia interests including home gardeners, commercial growers and the gardening retailers

Increase and improve the effectiveness of ADS support to the local dahlia societies especially to those societies that are just starting out or are in distress.

Broaden the scope of the dahlia research that ADS supports to include several aspects of raising dahlias

Continue ADS support for the judging, exhibiting and the introduction of new varieties of dahlias

Increase the visibility of the ADS to the general public especially those interested in gardening

Increase the number and improve the quality of ADS publications and DVDs on all aspects of dahlia culture and make them available to both members of the ADS and the general public

Improve the financial condition of the ADS

Establish a National Center for the Dahlia which would include research facilities, demonstration gardens, offices for ADS staff, dahlia library, etc.

A number of short term action items were also identified.

The Vision, Mission Statements and Goals tend to be reviewed and updated as appropriate at the annual Spring Meetings. The Goals, as summarized at the April, 2022, meetings are as follows:

- *Promote the dahlia as a garden flower as well as a flower to be exhibited at shows and fairs.*
- *Increase implementation of programs that appeal to the various dahlia interests including home gardeners, commercial growers, and the gardening retailers.*
- *Increase and improve the effectiveness of ADS support to the local dahlia societies especially to those societies that are just starting out or are in distress. Provide them the tools for success; use of technology to assist. Increase communication to local societies.*
- *Broaden the scope of the dahlia research that ADS supports to include several aspects of raising dahlias, coordination to existing resources, WSU Center.*
- *Continue ADS support for the judging, exhibiting and the introduction of new varieties of dahlias.*
- *Increase the visibility of the ADS to the general public especially those interested in gardening, cut flowers, commercial growing, florists.*
- *Increase the number and improve the quality of ADS publications with the availability of digital resources on all aspects of dahlia culture and make them available to both members of the ADS and the general public.*
- *Improve the financial condition of the ADS*

II. Dahlia Nomenclature and Evaluation

A. Classification

Extensive information on the classification of cultivars, the definition and standards for determining the types of dahlias, colors and color standards are published annually in the Classification and Handbook of Dahlias. The evolution in those standards can be determined by examining those books. That information will not be repeated here.

In the August 26, 1996, Annual Meeting, the RHS color chart was adopted as the official color chart of the ADS. The Dahliadel had been the official color chart of the ADS. Subsequently, at the April 2004, Board meeting, it was agreed that the new ADS Color Chart would become the standard for the determination of colors and it should be used for the determination of the color of all new seedlings.

A lot of work was done on the definitions of “other types” in 1995, culminating in the acceptance of a new series of definitions for the peony, anemone, collarette, single, mignon single, orchid, and novelty types. In addition, a procedure for describing their

color was adopted. Classification of color of the open-centered cultivars continues to evolve. Changes are captured in the Classification and Handbook of Dahlias and will not be included here.

The Stellar type dahlias were officially recognized and defined at the Annual Meeting in New York in 2001. The Novelty class was separated into fully double and open-centered types at the November 3, 2001 Executive Board Meeting in Atlanta. The Classification Book will now include: Stellar Dahlias (ST), Novelty Open (NO), and Novelty Fully Double (NX). The number of characters of a dahlia name was also limited to twenty-two (22).

The Orchette (OT) class was approved for addition to the set of forms recognized by the ADS in the March 2013 Executive Committee conference call. The addition was included in the 2014 CHD.

In the 2012 Annual Meeting, the Classification Committee reported that, in response to suggestions of having a “Micro” class, Bay Area show schedules included two Micro classes, one for Fully Double and one for Disc Center for cultivars up to 2 inches in diameter.

A new judging manual (Guide to Judging Dahlias) was published in 2002. The new manual departed from previous practices in one major way. The definitions of form were stated in ideal terms, rather than generic terms. These ideal definitions were incorporated into the 2003 CHD and used for classification and judging purposes during the 2003 show season. The change was not without controversy. Some thought that the ideal definitions might result in fewer cultivars in any one class. Others argued that the ideal simply reflected the peak of the “form mountain” around which a wide range of cultivars existed. After several rounds of reconsideration, the ideal definitions were retained in 2004. The CHD will continue to provide the latest “ideal” definitions as they evolve.

In the November 2006, conference call, the Board agreed to acknowledge the occurrence of black dahlias. They will be, at least for the time being, classified and judged with purple dahlias.

In December 2008, the Board agreed to target the introduction of a 4-digit classification system for the 2011 Classification and Handbook of Dahlias. This new system will provide the flexibility to separate incurved from straight cactuses as well as to handle evolving other classification and color changes.

Changes in the definitions of our various cultivars occur periodically. Those changes are captured in the CHD and will not be repeated here.

New seedling scorecards were developed by a judging manual revision team over the winter of 2020/2021. The new card was approved by the Board at its April 2021

meeting. Significant changes included elimination of distinction from the judging criteria and adjustment of the values of the various remaining attributes to simplify the calculation of scores. The new system will be first used in 2022.

The new judging manual was completed and distributed to all ADS members in the Fall of 2022. It is full of lots of color illustrations.

A series of judging modules were developed through the manual revision team and posted on the ADS website in January of 2023. The objective of the modules is to facilitate judges' training.

B. Requirements for Dahlia Judges

The following commentary on the requirements for dahlia judges reflects the evolution of those expectations through about November of 2019. The material may be of some historical interest and will be retained for that purpose. However, to determine current requirements, the reader should refer to the section of the ADS website on "Judging Requirements." That material will be maintained on a more regular basis than is possible or appropriate in the Policy Manual.

The requirements for retaining status as a dahlia judge were summarized in the June, 2000, and, subsequently, in the September, 2004, ADS Bulletin.

The requirements for retaining status and moving to the next level as a dahlia judge were updated, again, in 2006, as follows. In addition, at the Board Meeting in September 2006, a judging seminar, as described in the following requirements, is recommended to be a minimum of 4 hours every other year.

Accredited Judge Requirements

1. Must be a member in good standing of the ADS during the candidate training period for at least two consecutive years including the year of fulfilling the judging requirements.
2. Must have grown, exhibited dahlias in ADS sanctioned shows for at least five years or have grown and exhibited in at least eight ADS shows for three years.
3. Must pass a written examination on judging dahlias based on the ADS Guide to Judging Dahlias, the ADS Classification List, and the ADS Seedling Score Card, both fully double and open center dahlias during training period.
4. Attend two judging/training sessions during training period.

5. Serve as a candidate judge on a team with ADS Accredited and or Senior Judges in at least five (5) dahlia shows in a period not to exceed five years or serve as a candidate judge in seven (7) shows in a three year period.

Judges need to judge seedlings at a Trial Garden or on the Seedling Bench to the satisfaction of the Judging Chair. The recommended number of seedlings is three per year but not less than 15 in five years. Trial Garden experience in judging six seedlings to the satisfaction of a Senior Judge may be counted in lieu of one show.

Societies without seedling bench evaluation entries or trial gardens reasonably close may have their candidate judges fulfill their requirements by:

- a. Score, using the ADS score card, disseminated cultivars set up as seedling entries at the society show, training class, or seminar to the satisfaction of the Judging Chair.
- b. A garden of a society member may be used for a garden scoring experience when two or more disseminated cultivars of the same variety are grown side by side provided there are 6-8 blooms and the scores are reviewed by the Judging Chair.
- c. Judges must fulfill the requirement of judging "entries". The recommended number of seedlings is three per year but not less than 15 in five years.

Candidate judges who have fulfilled all of their judging requirements in three years may be advanced.

Senior Judge Requirements

Senior Judges are those who are qualified to judge seedlings and to work with candidate judges. An Accredited Judge may become a Senior Judge by meeting the following additional requirements:

1. Be a member of good standing of the ADS continuously.
2. Continue to grow and exhibit in ADS sanctioned shows virtually every year (minimum 4 of 5 years).
3. Serve at least four (4) year apprenticeship as an Accredited Judge and judge on a team with Senior Judges in at least eight ADS sanctioned shows.
4. Judge several seedling entries either at a Trial Garden or on the Seedling Bench to the satisfaction of the Judging Chair. The recommended number of seedlings is five per year but not less than 25 in five years.

Societies without seedling bench evaluation entries or trial gardens reasonably close may have the candidate Senior Judge fulfill their requirements by:

- a. Score, using the ADS score card, disseminated cultivars set up as seedling entries at the society show, training class, or seminar to the satisfaction of the Judging Chair.

b. A garden of a society member may be used for a garden scoring experience when two or more disseminated cultivars of the same variety are grown side by side provided there are 6-8 blooms and the scores are reviewed by the Judging Chair.

c. Judges must fulfill the requirement of judging several "entries". The recommended number of seedlings is five per year but not less than 25 in five years.

5. Demonstrate to the satisfaction of the team with Senior Judges, when judging seedlings, their ability to use the double and open center score cards properly in judging seedlings.

6. Be able to classify, by the current classification description, properly a seedling variety under consideration as to size, type, color.

7. Be able to name the current competition a seedling will compete against, either from memory or from the Classification Book.

8. Attend three judging seminar/training sessions during training period.

9. Satisfactorily take the Senior Judges test during training period.

Accredited Judges who judge 15-20 seedlings in a Trial Garden, Seedling Bench, or someone's back yard each year for three consecutive years may be advanced as long as all other requirements have been met.

Maintain judging status - Accredited or Senior

Must be a continuous member of good standing of the ADS and fulfill the following requirements:

1. Continue to grow and exhibit in ADS sanctioned shows virtually every year (minimum 4 of 5 years).

2. Judge in at least eight ADS sanctioned shows in five years.

3. Judge seedling entries either at a Trial Garden or on the Seedling Bench. The recommended number is two per year but not less than 10 in five years.

Societies without seedling bench evaluation entries or trial gardens reasonably close may have their judges fulfill their maintenance requirements by:

a. Score, using the ADS score card, disseminated cultivars set up as seedling entries at the society show, training class, or seminar to the satisfaction of the Judging Chair.

b. A garden of a society member may be used for a garden scoring experience when two or more disseminated cultivars of the same variety are grown side by side provided there are 6-8 blooms and the scores are reviewed by the Judging Chair.

d. Judges must fulfill the requirement of judging “entries”. The recommended number is two per year but not less than 10 in five years.

4. Attend a judging seminar once every other year and satisfactorily take judges test once every five years.

5. Senior Judges are required to judge every and all classes if asked by the Judging/Show chair unless they have an entry in that class.

Additionally

All judges must be given the opportunity to score seedlings even though they may not be assigned to the scoring team which will give the seedling the official score. Their score will be compared with the official team score and reported back to them.

Full directory information; surname, given name, address, zip code, telephone number, and name of "home" dahlia society should be provided with each application for a new judge or new Senior Judge. Where E-mail addresses are available, they should be reported.

The Evaluation Chairperson of each Conference and of each non-conference dahlia society is responsible for maintaining records of their judges and for reporting to the ADS Accreditation Chairperson the status of their judges and all deletions because of death, disability or loss of interest; transfers to or from other dahlia societies; and changes in addresses and telephone numbers. Yearly reports on deletions, corrections, and activities should be made to the ADS Accreditation Chairperson on the date to be determined by the ADS Accreditation Chair.

Honorary status (H) may be used at the discretion of the Evaluation Chairperson to designate those judges who have served many years but for reasons as determined by the Evaluation Chair are no longer fully active, but continue to serve by judging occasionally or contributing other valuable assistance. The category will be listed in the directory, but no special card will be issued.

The criteria and the requirements for Honorary Judges were discussed at the April 2016 planning meeting. Several changes were approved at the associated Board Meeting. The name was changed to Honorary Senior Judge. They were disqualified from judging seedlings and the Head Table and from serving as a team leader. They may return to active status by meeting a set of requirements listed in the April, 2016, Board Meeting.

Judges that do not fulfill all the listed requirements to advance or maintain their judges' status will be reduced to the next lower level of accreditation until they have demonstrated that they have completed approved training or experience to remedy the reason for demotion and retaken the judges test for the next level of accreditation.

The procedure for reinstatement of judges was implemented in advance of the 2012 Annual Meeting and included in the judging materials on the website at that time.

The Board approved the purchase and distribution of pins for Accredited and Senior Judges in the January 2013, meeting. It is anticipated that this recognition of accomplishment could help increase the number of members entering the judging program.

The Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers has supplemental requirements. These were summarized in the June 1998, ADS Bulletin and they are included here as Appendix I.

C. Judging Criteria

1. Seedling Evaluation Score Cards

The ADS publishes seedling evaluation score cards that are used for the evaluation of new cultivars. The score card for the evaluation of fully double cultivars was most recently published in June 2000. The score card for single, mignon single, collarette, anemone, peony and novelty cultivars was most recently published in May, 1999. The front half of each of the score cards is published in the back of the Classification and Handbook of Dahlias. The back half of the score cards summarize the positive and negative characteristics of each of the dahlia attributes on the score cards. The positives and negatives are based on Cook's Manual and the most recent definitions in the classification book.

New evaluation score sheets were developed by the Trial Garden and Seedling Bench Evaluation committees over the winter of 2011 and included in the 2012 CHD. The evaluation criteria are based on the 2002 ADS Guide to Judging Dahlias and the evolving criteria in the CHD. The score cards for Open-Centered cultivars was further edited in the fall of 2015 to help capture the evolving requirements for color information on those cultivars. The changes were incorporated in the 2016 CHD.

2. Sepal or Calyx Petals, Spur Leaves

The issue of the presence of and the removal of sepal or calyx petals and spur leaves or pig ears and the consequence on judging was determined in the Executive Board Meeting on July 8, 2000 and published in the September 2000, ADS Bulletin as follows. The removal of sepals, a calyx or an unpaired leaf ("spur leaf") from a bloom may result in a penalty, if the removal is obvious or distorts the overall bloom. While penalties might be in order, disqualification is not an acceptable judgment, nor is elimination from further competition due only to the removal of sepals or a spur leaf.

3. Judging Teams

The makeup of judging teams was discussed at the April 8, 2000, Executive Board Meeting with the following conclusion: It was decided that the policy of the ADS is that where possible, a majority of judges should be ADS accredited or honorary

judges. Seedling Bench teams must be composed entirely of ADS Senior or Accredited judges.

The responsibilities of the team leader were reviewed in some detail at the spring meeting in 2017. Publication of a booklet describing those responsibilities was subsequently approved and the booklets were distributed in time for the 2017 judging season.

4. Color Chart

In the November 2001, Board Meeting, the creation of a color chart was made possible by the generosity of Eugene Boeke, who agreed to let his donation to the ADS serve as seed money for the creation of the chart. Sales of the color chart would subsequently be used to put funds back into the funds he donated earlier. The printing of the new color charts was authorized in the November 2002, Board meeting.

It was determined at the April 2004, Board meeting that the new ADS Color Chart was to be used for the determination of the color of all new seedlings.

D. Seedlings, New Introductions

1. Definition of Undisseminated

The definition of an undissemminated cultivar was much discussed and finally published in the March 2001, ADS Bulletin. The full text of the definition is included in the Classification and Handbook of Dahlias and is updated there as appropriate.

2. Age of Eligibility

The age required for a seedling to be eligible for entry on the bench and in the Trial Gardens was changed from 3 years to 4 years in the August 2002, Annual Meeting.

3. Trial Garden Rules

The Trial Garden evaluations were modified in 2000 to honor the contributions of Evie Gullikson to the development of “other” types of dahlias. The changes were published in the June 2000, ADS Bulletin and adopted in the ADS Annual Meeting on September 24, 2000.

The most recent revision of the complete set of rules governing Trial Garden operation is published in the Classification and Handbook of Dahlias and will not be repeated here.

In the Executive Board Meeting held on July 24, 1993, the issue of the probationary period for Trial Gardens was reviewed. The conclusions reached were as follows. The two year waiting period may be waived or reduced by the Executive Board, upon submission to the board of certification from the president of the Society desiring to sponsor the Trial Garden that (1) the plot that will be used for the Trial Garden has been used within the most recent two years for growing dahlias and (2) specific named

members of the society have agreed to supervise or participate in disbranching, disbudding, tying, judging and, if necessary, in other tasks of caring for the garden in a manner stipulated by these rules.

The fees for the return of roots from the trial gardens were reviewed in the Executive Board Meeting in July 2001. It was agreed to charge \$10.00 for one clump and \$20.00 for two or three clumps to return to grower. In addition, in the November 2001, Executive Board Meeting, it was determined that the Trial Gardens must be willing to return an originator's roots at the end of the season. This latter decision was reversed in the April 2007, Board meeting and the Trial Gardens unable to return roots should let that be known in the Bulletin announcement for the Trial Gardens. Other changes adopted in the April 2007, meeting are described in the December, 2007, Bulletin and captured in the Trial Garden rules in the Classification and Handbook of Dahlias published annually.

The Trial Garden rules were adjusted in 2020 as a result of the covid pandemic. Because of the extraordinary global health concerns of 2020, dahlias that scored in 2019 – but were not introduced in 2020 – may accumulate scores for 3 years: 2019, 2020, and 2021 if requested by the grower.

4. Entry of Seedling in ADS National Shows

The concept of showing seedlings in open competition with ADS cultivars was encouraged in the November 13, 1999, Executive Board Meeting as follows. In all ADS National Shows, seedlings should be allowed to be shown in open competition as single or multiple bloom entries.

5. Seedling Bench Evaluation Rules

The rules regarding the evaluation of seedlings are published annually in the Classification and Handbook of Dahlias. The changes cited here were incorporated into those rules in the year following their adoption.

The seedling bench evaluations were modified in 2000 to honor the contributions of Evie Gullikson to the development of "other" types of dahlias. The changes were published in the June 2000, ADS Bulletin and adopted in the ADS Annual Meeting on September 24, 2000.

In the Executive Board Meeting of November 13, 1999, the issue of the reconciliation of the size and form of seedlings was discussed with the following conclusion: The size, form and color of all seedlings, whether they score or not, should be reported to the classification chair by the Show Chairs. The reporting sheets will be changed to reflect this.

Additional changes were approved in the April 2007, Board Meeting and published in the December 2007, Bulletin as well as the following Classification and Handbook of Dahlias.

The Seedling Bench rules were adjusted in 2020 as a result of the covid pandemic. Because of the extraordinary global health concerns of 2020, dahlias that scored in 2019 – but were not introduced in 2020 – may accumulate scores for 3 years: 2019, 2020, and 2021 if requested by the grower.

6. New ADS Seedling Medal

In April, 2020, the ADS Board approved the creation of a new seedling medal. The medal will be called the Les Connell Medal to honor his many years of successful hybridizing. The medal will be for a new origination that has won the most blue and higher ribbons for the five years since the first year of introduction. This is to award varieties that last over the test of time. The first medal will go to Les Connell as well as one to the originator of the bloom originated five years ago that won the most blues and higher over this five-year time period. There is no overlap with existing medals. The medals will be kept by the Special Awards Chair, as other medals. Lou Paradise indicated he can determine which variety wins each year and provide that to Special Awards, as he does with the Stanley Johnson. It was felt since it is an ADS medal that it should be stored with Special Awards as all other ADS medals are.

E. Established Cultivars

1. Criteria for an ADS Show

Some have directed questions to the board concerning the criteria for holding ADS accepted shows. A lengthy discussion at the November 13, 1999, Executive Board Meeting led to the development of the following criteria for an ADS show:

1. The capability to enter flowers in all classifications.
2. Sponsored by an ADS society, either participating or affiliated.
3. Must use current ADS classification.
4. In June 2009, the Board reaffirmed the requirement that in years succeeding 2009, there will be an Artistic Design/Arrangement section with an ADS award in each National show.

A manual detailing the requirements for and the process of holding an ADS National Show was developed and distributed in 2012. It is included as Appendix 3, below.

2. Awards

- a. The President's Cup was retired at the Centennial Show on Long Island in September 2015. It was won by Mr. Steve Santos; see comments below.

The basis for the award of the President's Cup was modified at the Annual Meeting on September 24, 2000 and published in the September 2000, ADS Bulletin as follows: The original motion on the President's Cup was as follows. It was moved and seconded that the ADS accept a 12-inch sterling silver vase, to be designated the President's Cup [hereinafter referred to as "the Cup"] in memory of Richard Vincent, Jr., founding President of the American Dahlia Society. The Cup is to be awarded annually at the National Show for the best single bloom entry of a dahlia classified as BB size under the following conditions, as agreed to by the Board and the donors:

1. The winner of The Cup (if a member of the ADS) is entitled to its possession until no later than the following July 1, at which time The Cup shall be returned to a designee of the board for transfer to an appropriate representative of the Society hosting the National Show that year. (If the recipient is not a member of the ADS, the ADS representative of the society sponsoring the Show shall retain possession of The Cup.
2. A miniature cup, suitably engraved, shall be presented on a permanent basis to the winner of The Cup.
3. The Cup shall be permanently retired after the National Show in 2015, the year of the 100th anniversary of the formation of the American Dahlia Society, be awarded to the exhibitor who has won The Cup most frequently during the years 1990 to 2015 inclusive. In the case of a tie, the winner shall be the party to the tie who won The Cup most frequently between the years 2005-2015. If a tie still remains, possession will be determined by lot. The individual to whom The Cup would be awarded under this procedure must be present in person to receive the award unless the Executive Board waives the requirement.
4. Until permanently retired in 2015, The Cup shall remain the property of the American Dahlia Society, which retains the exclusive authority to mark, engrave, or alter The Cup in any way. It shall be the responsibility of the American Dahlia Society to have the name of the annual winner of The Cup engraved on a separate plate attached to the base of The Cup.
5. The President designates the Chairman of the Special Awards Committee who shall have immediate responsibility of The Cup, including keeping winners' names up to date, maintaining records of possession, shipping The Cup to the Society hosting each year's National Show, and any other duty necessary to assuring the integrity and availability of The Cup under the conditions of this resolution.

In the April 2002, Board Meeting, The Cup was renamed the Alger Cup.

Mr. Steve Santos won the lot per the preceding procedure and was awarded the Alger Cup at the 2015 Annual Show on Long Island. He was present to receive the award.

b. The Boeke Award

The Boeke Award was approved at the April 21, 2001, Executive Board Meeting and reported in the September ADS Bulletin of the American Dahlia Society. In recognition of a generous gift from Mr. Eugene Boeke, originator of dahlias with the prefix Bo-, the ADS agreed to sponsor a special award at the annual show for the best Boeke introduction in the show. In order to be eligible for the prize, the entry must win a higher award. Funding for the prize will come from interest on half of Mr. Boeke's gift. The prize will accumulate if there is no winner in any given year. The other half of the donation will be used to support the publications and the communications of the ADS.

As a consequence of additional gifts and a request from Mr. Boeke, the value of the award was increased from \$100 to \$1000 in the March 2008, Spring Board Meeting.

c. Hart and Dudley Medal Changes

The definitions of the various classes of dahlias eligible for the Hart and Dudley medals were reviewed over the '05 season. Subsequently the classes were redefined in such a way as to make the awards parallel between the Seedling Bench and the Trial Garden. These changes were published in the '06 CHD.

d. Stanley Johnson Award

In June of 2009, the ADS recognized that there has been some confusion regarding the dates for the Stanley Johnson Award. It was agreed that year engraved on the medal will be the year in which it wins the most awards. In November 2016, the Board approved a motion to offer the winner of the Stanley Johnson photo contest an option of a framed copy of the print or \$200.00 in cash.

F. Virus Research, Endowed Chair at WSU for Dahlia Research and Development

At an Executive Board Meeting on November 12, 1994, the ADS officially initiated a virus research project at Washington State University as follows.

WHEREAS, the ADS has for many years supported and contributed to research on the dahlia viruses.

WHEREAS, the ADS acknowledges and applauds the gifts received by the Washington State University Foundation to support a dahlia research project.

WHEREAS, the ADS Board recognizes the need for additional funding to the Washington State University Foundation to support the establishment of a distinguished professorship in plant pathology with an emphasis in dahlia related research.

WHEREAS, the ADS Board supports the idea of a challenge grant to assist in funding dahlia research through the establishment of a distinguished professorship.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS MOVED, that the Executive Board endorse the establishment of a program to continue dahlia plant research through the establishment of a distinguished chair in plant pathology at Washington State University and the use of a challenge grant to support the program, provided that a committee, to be designated by the Board, advises the ADS that it approves the goals and methodology of the project, and provided further, that said committee approves that the terms of the project, including the use of funds contributed, access to research, recognition of the ADS, and the adequacy of assurances that all funds contributed will be used exclusively for dahlia virus research.

In March 2008, the Board agreed to broaden the basis of research activities sponsored by the ADS. The initial idea was for a project to extend vase life. The research projects will be awarded to the most eligible and cost-effective among the proposers.

In September 2014, Mr. Jim Chuey donated \$350,000 from the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation to reinvigorate the dahlia research project at WSU. The objective for the donation was to expand research on dahlia viruses and to explore the possibility of developing virus elimination protocols. The June 2015, ADS Bulletin included a brochure of pictures and counsel for reducing virus in our dahlia gardens. The brochure was based on the WSU research and supported by contributions of the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation. Another donation in 2016 established a testing facility at WSU that was open to the U.S. public. The donation substantially underwrote the cost of the testing.

Endowed Chair for Dahlia R&D: During the summer of 2017, Jim Chuey donated \$805,000 to WSU through the Scheetz-Chuey Foundation and on behalf of the American Dahlia Society. That donation added sufficient funding to the project to make it eligible for an official University Chair. With Professor Pappu already actively involved in the work of the chair, a portion of the funding was made available to create a Dahlia Resource Center with the core task of making sure that ADS members were informed on how best to take advantage of the knowledge and the developments at WSU in our dahlia gardens. The activities of the Chair will focus on the needs and the requirements of the American Dahlia Society in perpetuity.

The new and improved technology will provide the Resource Center with the basis for improvements in our dahlia gardens. The full breadth of the agricultural knowledge of the University will be accessible to the Resource Center for that transfer to our gardens. The near-term activities of Professor Pappu, holder of the new Carl F. and James J. Chuey Endowed Chair for Dahlia Research and Development, will continue to focus on the resolution of virus in dahlias and the development and staffing of the Dahlia Resource Center. Intermediate-term objectives will include study of the approaches to making

clean dahlias commercially available in the North American dahlia market. The long-term activities will be tailored to ADS priorities and the needs of our dahlia growers.

The Scheetz-Chuey Charitable Foundation provided the financial support for WSU to continue to run virus tests on samples provided by dahlia vendors, ADS-affiliated local Clubs, and the ADS Virus Team. The knowledge developed through those tests made it possible to specify the garden practices to minimize the presence of virus in our gardens. The test results and the prescription for minimizing virus are thoroughly documented on the ADS website under “Research,” “Virus,” and “Documentation Index.”

In 2022, Professor Pappu and his team at WSU discovered the reason that DMV, a DNA virus, had disappeared from the test results after 2016. It had evolved and was not detected by the earlier tests. Subsequent tests with a new procedure provided a disappointingly high amount of DMV in almost all the vendor, club, and team tests. The knowledge developed on the other, RNA, viruses is still relevant for those viruses; additional experience and research is required to understand the DMV results.

G. Dahlia Genome Sequencing Project

In June of 2016, a project was initiated to begin to characterize the dahlia genome. With the support of the Monterey Bay Dahlia Society and the offices and expertise of Professor Virginia Walbot, a fund-raising project was initiated within the ADS to support a first-cut of the genome sequence.

An effort subsequently evolved to propose an NSF grant for a more complete analysis of the dahlia genome. This proposal was submitted to the NSF by Professors Pappu at Washington State, Walbot at Stanford, and Saar at Murray State in April of 2017.

In 2018, the focus of the genome work began to shift to Dr. Alex Harkess who had volunteered to work on the genome analysis. Dr. Harkess subsequently became a Professor at Auburn University with a joint appointment to the Hudson/Alpha Institute for Biotechnology, which specializes in genomic analyses. Zach Meharg joined Professor Harkess specifically to work on the dahlia genome project, starting as a Master’s student and switching to a Ph.D. in 2022.

The status of the project is reported on the ADS website under “Research,” “Genome,” and “Genome Project Updates.”

H. Garden Qualities of Dahlias

A proposal for the evaluation of dahlias as garden flowers was used in the Oregon Trial Garden and summarized in the June 2001, ADS Bulletin.

In the November 2003, Executive Board Meeting, the Garden/Cut Flower Committee was established to help promote the American Dahlia Society among dahlia gardeners.

A "Garden Dahlia of the Year" award was established in the October 2004 ADS Board Meeting.

The Garden Dahlia Committee published a series of evaluation characteristics for container/border dahlias in the March 2006 Bulletin. They included early bloom, need for staking, quality and number of blooms through the season, quality of bloom color and foliage, compatibility with other plants in containers and borders. Based on those characteristics, the first Container/Border Dahlia of the year was chosen.

III. American Dahlia Society Issues

A. Letter of Incorporation

The American Dahlia Society was incorporated in 1927 in the state of New York as a non-profit organization. Over time the IRS has enacted various regulations dealing with non-profit organizations and we had not kept our Articles of Incorporation current and therefore these needed to be amended. The amended Articles of Incorporation were published in the June, 1997 issue of the Bulletin and amended at Denver to delete the words "flowers, ferns, palms, shrubs, plants and vegetable growths of all kinds" (section 2(a)). The amended Articles of Incorporation were unanimously adopted at the August 31, 1997 Annual Meeting.

B. Membership

a. Life Memberships

The opportunity for life memberships was discussed in the November Board meeting in 1992. The conclusion, by common consent, was that the cost of a Life Membership would be \$500 commencing January 1, 1993. The Board reserved the right to increase the rate and agreed that the rate would be reviewed at least within 5 years.

b. Membership Rates

The issue of the cost of foreign mailing and membership fees were discussed in the April 2001 Executive Board Meeting and ADS policies were modified and published in the June 2001 ADS Bulletin as follows:

The cost of mailing the Bulletin has increased. Some foreign members join the ADS through a participating society and thereby receive a \$3.00 discount. Beginning in 2002, they will no longer receive this discount and will pay \$35.00. Returning members (members who have let their memberships lapse and then return at a later date) will not receive a second Grow Guide. The package given to new members will be determined by Harry (Rissetto, President), Mac (Boyer, Treasurer) and Alan

(Fisher, Membership Chair). (See new item below.) Other discussion on this issue took place in the April 2002 meeting wherein the overseas mailing rate was increased to \$40 and the surcharge for 1st class mailing to U.S. and Canadian members was increased to 8\$.

Membership rates were increased by \$4 in the August 2011 Annual Meeting.

c. New Member “Package”

The package to go with new memberships were discussed in the April 2, 2016 meeting with the passage of a motion that the package should consist of a welcome letter, a copy of “Dahlias, A Monthly Guide” published by the Puget Sound Dahlia Association, and a copy of the current version of Classification and handbook of Dahlias. The new member will be advised that back issues of the ADS Bulletin are available on the “members” portion of the ADS website. A “new member” is a person(s) who has not previously appeared in the records of the ADS as a member.

d. Timing of membership renewal

The Spring 2013 Planning Meeting included a lengthy discussion regarding an ongoing concern about tardiness in renewing memberships. Renewals that extend well into the following year greatly complicate decisions on sending Bulletins, etc. and delays access to the renewal fees. More effective communication with the local societies through the ADS Reps, by direct emails to the local Presidents and Membership Chairs, and publishing the desired schedule in the September Bulletin were all options discussed in the meeting. Incentives for the clubs, like free program DVDs, were also considered as options to encourage more timely submission of memberships.

e. International Membership

Accommodation of expanding interest in international memberships has been under discussion for some time. A committee to keep current with other international dahlia societies was established at the June 2013 Conference call.

f. Overseas Supporters

The ADS membership at its 2019 Annual Meeting adopted a by-law amendment intended to make its Bulletin and annual Classification and Handbook of Dahlias (CHD) more accessible to overseas dahlia growers outside the western hemisphere. The amendment reads as follows:

Article II. Membership.

Section 8. Overseas Associates – Overseas Associates shall be deemed Friends of the Society, and on the payment of a fee, will receive an electronic version of the ADS Bulletin and Classification and Handbook of Dahlias, pursuant to rules adopted by the Board. Overseas Associates must reside outside the Western Hemisphere and shall

not be members of and will not have full rights and privileges of membership in this society. Nothing herein will preclude someone qualifying as an Overseas Associates Membership from becoming a member of the Society under Clauses 1-7 above.

Previously, dahlia growers outside the Western Hemisphere could not receive any ADS publications without becoming members at an annual cost of \$48.00 (US). This was a limitation on the ADS' ability to communicate with much of the dahlia-world. In an effort to alleviate this, the ADS has created a non-member status that will provide email access to the Bulletins and the CHD.

The supporter status will become effective in the December 2020. The initial service will run from December 2020 thru December 2021. It may be renewed annually

The annual cost of this service will be \$15.00(US).

It will be accessible thru the ADS website's web-store. www.dahlia.org/webstore paypal service

This new service will not preclude anyone from securing or maintaining an overseas membership, including hard copies of the Bulletin and CHD, as well as membership voting rights.

At the 4/24/2022 Board Meeting, a motion was passed to eliminate the international membership option; offering only the overseas associate membership with digital access only. It will start in 2023 or their next renewal if later than 2023.

At the July 2022 Board Meeting, it was agreed to change the membership year to May 1 through April 30 with an extended membership that would align a new member with the next season. The Board also endorsed the new dues structure proposed by the Executive Committee starting in 2023. The dues structure and the specific member benefits are summarized in an appendix to those July, 2022, Board Meeting minutes.

C. Business Memberships

A Business Membership program was approved in November of 2009. The idea was to have a program that induces business of all sizes to support the American Dahlia Society. Business Memberships will be available beginning in 2010. There will be three levels of business membership which are described as follows:

- a. Giant Membership: minimum of \$1000 per year.
 - 2 Family memberships mailed with First Class Postage.
 - 20% discount on advertising in Bulletin
 - First right of refusal for use of the full-page front or back inside cover of the Bulletin

Listing in the Dahlia Suppliers section of the ADS web site
Discounted rates on all ADS Publications
Name on merchandising item (e.g. notepad, pencil tote bag etc.) that the ADS will produce and give to the local society sponsoring the National Show each year.
Ability to state they are sponsors of the ADS on their other printed and web advertising and in conjunction with this a limited license to use the ADS Logo.

- b. Large Membership: minimum of \$500 per year.
1 Family Membership mailed with First Class Postage
15% discount on advertising in the Bulletin
Listing in the Dahlia Suppliers section of the ADS web site.
Discounted rates on all ADS Publications
Ability to state they are sponsors of the ADS on their other printer and web advertising and in conjunction with this a limited license to use the ADS logo
- c. Medium Membership: minimum of \$150 per year.
1 Family Membership mailed with First Class Postage.
10% discount on advertising in the Bulletin
Listing in the Dahlia Suppliers section of the ADS web site.
Discounted rates on all ADS Publications
Ability to state they are sponsors of the ADS on their other printed and web advertising and in conjunction with this a limited license to use the ADS logo.
- Many details were left to be worked out.

In March 2010, it was agreed to begin a process to obtain advertising on the inside front and inside back covers of the 2011 Classification and Handbook of Dahlias to be determined by the open bidding process of Gold or Silver Business Partners with an opening minimum bid of \$1200. Later that year, this advertisement was opened to everyone interested. The nomenclature for the Business Partners program was also adjusted to become Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

D. Communication

The responsibilities of the various officers of the ADS are spelled out in the By-Laws, Appendix 2. In addition, the role of the ADS Representatives in communicating between the ADS and the various member societies was reviewed in the July 16, 1994, Executive Board Meeting. The following conclusion was reached. It is the intent of the Executive Board that the role of the ADS Representative be used to the greatest amount feasible in facilitating communication with ADS members that move or disappear. The ADS Representatives will be asked to initiate action for quarterly society news reports and any item that has a deadline, etc.

A handbook was developed for the ADS Representatives in 2005, after concurrence on the need for the handbook in the October 2004 meeting of the Board. An objective was also established to set up routine email communications with the Reps.

Making the most effective use of the ADS Reps is a topic that has been frequently discussed by the Board, particularly in Spring Planning Meetings. Making them members of the local society boards, establishing a list of key deadlines/dates, development of a specific job description, requiring computer literacy, and implementation of conference calls among the Reps and their Coordinators were ideas specifically discussed in the Spring Planning Meeting, 2013.

The general policy for the dissemination of ADS information on the internet changed starting in about 2015. The older approach was to wait until after it appeared in the Bulletin. The evolving approach became to publish the information as soon as it became available. In 2011, the Trial Garden and Seedling Bench results began to be published on the website when they became available. In 2015, the Cream of the Crop and Fabulous 50 were also released on the website when they were available.

The ADS undertook a different approach to its Board meetings in April 2005. Instead of a brief 2 to 4-hour meeting, a weekend planning meeting was held that lasted from Friday night through noon on Sunday. This approach afforded the opportunity to discuss basic issues about the organization and its future, as well as the normal, basic Board business *du jour*. The new approach was sufficiently successful that the two-day meeting format persisted.

In the July 2007 Conference Call, the Board adopted a disclaimer to be published in each Bulletin to indicate that the material included was not an official position of the ADS but rather reflects the opinions of the individual authors. Further, the ADS does not recommend or endorse the use of specific chemicals or other substances in connection with the cultivation of dahlias.

The Board, in its June, 2012, conference call, approved the use of Cherokee Botanical Library, the site of the Atlanta History Museum and the holder of the archives for the American Daffodil Society, as a repository for the American Society archives.

The need for an updated version of an ADS Guide to Growing Dahlias, targeting new and beginning dahlia growers was discussed in detail at the Spring, 2013, Planning Meeting. A number of volunteers were assigned various portions of the brochure. Publication of a digital version was also discussed. A target date of the end of 2014 was established.

In April, 2022, the Board approved reducing the number of Bulletins published each year from four to three: Winter-January, Spring-June, and Fall-October, starting in October 2022. At the same meeting, it was agreed to do show reports on-line only, with no printed show reports.

A new approach for the organization of the Board began to be discussed in 2015. The objective was to make it easier for decisions to be made quickly where appropriate and with some confidentiality where appropriate. In the April, 2016, meeting a motion was approved to investigate what needs to be done to move forward with this modified type of structure for the ADS.

The new organizational structure was incorporated in the Bylaws considered and approved at the Annual Meeting in September 2017. The new structure is illustrated in Figure 1 at the end of this Policy Manual.

E. Honors and Awards

From time to time, the ADS finds it appropriate to honor individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the objectives and the successes of the ADS or to the dahlia. The criteria for the various awards that have evolved over time were summarized by the Awards Committee in 2017 as follows.

The ADS Gold Medal - Awarded to individuals who have made significant, enduring, and/or extraordinary contributions to the ADS. This contribution reflects exceptional time, effort, dedication, financial support, or a combination of these, provided by a person to further the purposes and programs of the ADS.

The ADS President's Award - This award is given largely at the discretion of the ADS President. The intent is to recognize individuals who have gone far beyond being simply interested in dahlias. It identifies people who have seriously promoted the dahlia and who have been especially supportive of the community of dahlia lovers, extending beyond the local society. Being intimately involved with the operation of the ADS is not a requisite.

The ADS Silver Medal - Recognizes people the ADS recognizes as Dahlia Ambassadors." These are individuals, sometimes from outside North America, who have clearly promoted the dahlia and dahlia activities. Awardees are supportive of North American dahlia members and our activities, for example by attending and actively participating in ADS National Shows.

The ADS Commemorative Medal - Is typically given to people in recognition of special contributions directed to ADS activities. It may also be given to foreign societies for their use as awards at shows and other events as they deem appropriate. This medal may also occasionally be used as a promotional piece.

In April 2022, the ADS Board approved a proposal to create a Clean Garden Award to honor gardeners who achieve gardens with reduced virus.

The Awards Committee retains the responsibility and the authority to use their discretion with regard to the choices and the timing of the awards.

F. Advertising Policy

A schedule of fees was reviewed and passed in the March 2012 Planning Meeting. Please see that schedule at the end of those meeting minutes on the website. Further discussion in the April 2013 meeting led to a plan to coordinate advertising among the ADS website, Newsletter, and Bulletin.

G. Committee Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons

A policy was established at the March 2012 Planning Meeting asking each Board member to establish a Vice Chairperson for their position.

In a July 2014 conference call the Board approved a policy to make it possible to purchase equipment required for a Committee member to fulfill their ADS duties. The ADS retains ownership of the equipment and can transfer it to another individual as appropriate.

H. Digital Newsletter

The creation of a quarterly digital newsletter for the internet was approved by the Board at the March 2012 Planning Meeting. The target for the newsletter will be the broad range of dahlia growers and gardeners.

The Newsletter was further discussed in the April 2013 Planning Meeting. A budget of \$750 was approved to start the Newsletter, with a target distribution of once every two months. That timing was changed to quarterly in the June 2013 Conference call.

I. ADS Logo

A long process of creating and discussing the terms of use of an ADS logo culminated in approval of a policy in March of 2010. The terms of use of the logo adopted were as follows: The American Dahlia Society does not permit wording that any product, service, or concept of an advertiser has the endorsement of the ADS.

With the exception of the provision regarding the Stanley Johnson Medal Winners, all advertisers interested in displaying an Approved Image of the ADS logo must be current members of the American Dahlia Society. A statement of ADS membership may be used in advertisements, e.g., "Member of the American Dahlia Society." Only advertisers who participate in the ADS Business Partner Program may also use wording that indicates they are financially sponsoring the ADS, e.g., "Member and Financial Sponsor of the American Dahlia Society."

The American Dahlia Society logo must be displayed separately and shall not be combined with the name or logo of the advertiser.

The American Dahlia Society will permit members to use the specific Approved Images of the ADS logo use for advertising and announcements of all American Dahlia Society medal winners, including: the Lynn B. Dudley, the Derrill W. Hart, the Evie Gullikson, the Border/Container Dahlia of the Year and the Stanley Johnson medal winners. The wording associated with the logo must be limited to the year the medal was awarded and the name of the award, as in "2009 Derrill W. Hart Award Winner." In all cases, the size of the font used to identify the winning variety must not exceed the size of the logo. The Approved Images of the logo may be used in conjunction with all medal winning cultivars without restriction to duration, subject to the periodic review by the ADS.

It was reported in the June 2012 Board Conference Call, that Morgan Lewis (Harry Rissetto's Law Firm) had succeeded in establishing a live trademark, consisting of the logo and a few words associated with it, on behalf of the ADS.

J. Website

An entirely new website was developed and rolled out late in 2008, incorporating the inputs and the objectives for the site as developed in the various Board meetings and workshops.

In April of 2009, the Board decided simply to list Bulletin advertisers on the website pending the development of a broader advertising practice.

In June 2009, the Committee agreed to begin the process of placing "teaser" articles from the Bulletin onto the public portion of the website in order to try to encourage site visitors to join the Society.

In November of 2009, the Board concluded that show results should be published on the public portion of the website and be available for downloading in the members-only portion of the site.

In March of 2010, it was agreed that the content of the dahlia store could be expanded to include publications and items from local dahlia societies as well as commercial dahlia items that are deemed acceptable by a committee for the dahlia store.

In April 2010, the Board agreed to put scans of the ADS Bulletins over the decade from 2000 through 2009 up on the website. A second decade, 1990 through 1999 was approved in June 2011.

In March 2013, the Website Committee was authorized to proceed with the development of a new software system to support an online classification guide to make classification information and cultivar pictures available online.

The website was discussed in some detail at the April 2013 planning meeting. One key conclusion was that each Board member needs to 'own' and to regularly review that portion of the site for which they have responsibility. They concluded that the Calendar of Events should be removed in favor of a link to the Colorado site. There was discussion

about making old Bulletins available on the public portion of the site, but no conclusion was reached.

This last issue was resolved in the March 2014 Board conference call in which a motion was passed to make all Bulletins older than 1 year available on the public portion of the site. It was also agreed that current Bulletins would be scanned and made available in the Members-only portion of the site one month after they are published and distributed. Subsequent practice became to publish the Bulletins on the website when they became available in digital format.

In April 2022, the Board empowered the store manager to set prices as needed to break even or make a little money including shipping costs.

K. Gifts and Endowments

ADS policies for accepting gifts and endowments were reviewed and modified as follows at the August 26, 1996 Annual Meeting of ADS.

1. UNRESTRICTED GIFTS: Gift given-without restriction. To be used at discretion of the Board of Directors. No special segregation or accounting of such gifts
2. RESTRICTED GIFTS - LIMITED DURATION. A gift given for a specific purpose, which will be disbursed over no longer than 3 years unless the ADS Executive Board designated a longer period. Principal shall be given accounting. A separate account will be established in the general fund to which expenditures will be charged pertaining to the purposes of the gift. Any interest earned will remain available for general use in the general fund.
3. ENDOWMENT FUND GIFTS. An endowment fund(s) will be established for gifts for a specific purpose that are in the amount of \$25,000 or more. Monies shall be invested in an endowment fund. The income shall be available each year for the use specified (Note: Income can accrue for future use or addition to fund). Any gain in principal shall accrue to the endowment fund. All endowment funds are pooled and income and/or gains or losses shall be allocated based on the percentage of the year's total and time of investment. Each endowment shall show each year's Total Endowment plus or minus changes in capital received, as well as Total Income (excluding capital change) available for purpose designated plus any carryover income from previous years. The term and disposition of the gift will be determined by agreement with donor, or if that is impossible by the ADS Executive Board.
4. SPECIFIC USE. The Board of Directors may form Trust units and solicit funds for same as occasion may dictate (e.g., Virus Trust Fund). Such Trust Funds would be handled separately as "Endowment Funds."
5. ADS AND DONOR. Unless otherwise agreed by ADS and Donor, existing ADS Gift & "Endowment Funds" shall continue through year 2000. Subsequently, such funds (principal and any accrued interest) shall be transferred to fund a new "Past Dahlia Giant's Fund." Such fund shall be operated as an endowment fund. This fund will be

used to support the annual show or for such other purposes as the Board shall designate. The Executive Board may accept future memorial gifts into this fund. Each gift shall be acknowledged by the Board of Directors in writing. (Note) Efforts will be made by the Board to secure whatever consent is necessary to reclassify existing designated gifts to the "Past Dahlia Giants" Endowment Fund.

The following changes in the status of ADS bequests and endowments were approved by the Board at the annual Planning meeting in Atlanta in April, 2007.

1. Bequests. The Richard Vincent Society was established to acknowledge members and friends of the ADS who plan for bequests of \$1000 or more to the Society in their wills.
2. Special Gifts. Recognition of annual gifts to the ADS as follows:
 - a. Andreas Dahl Circle - \$1000 or more.
 - b. Mark Alger Benefactor - \$500 - \$1000.
 - c. Stanley Johnson Associates - \$100 - \$500.
3. Endowments. The ADS affirmed its policy of encouraging significant gifts of \$25,000 or more. All endowments will go into the Endowment fund; interest from the fund will be used to support ADS projects.
4. Web-Site. At the same time, the Web-site challenge fund was created. This fund was completed in 2008.

L. Tax-Exempt Status

Efforts by ADS President Harry Risetto led to the clarification of the tax-exempt status of the ADS. This was discussed in the August 29, 1999 Executive Board Meeting and the conclusions published in the March 2000 ADS Bulletin, as follows. The American Dahlia Society is tax exempt, which means donations to the ADS or expenses for services performed for the ADS may be deducted on your income tax return. Local societies are independent so cannot be included under the ADS umbrella.

M. By-Laws

Revisions to the by-laws of the ADS were published in the June 1998, ADS Bulletin and adopted in the August 30, 1998 Annual Meeting.

Revisions to the by-laws of the ADS were published in the June 2003, ADS Bulletin and adopted in the September 2003 Annual Meeting. The primary change to the By-Laws was a switch to two-year terms for the officers.

Revisions to the by-laws of the ADS were published in the June 2008, ADS Bulletin and adopted in the September 2008 Annual Meeting. The primary changes to the By-Laws were additions of committees and a description of the responsibilities of the ADS Representatives.

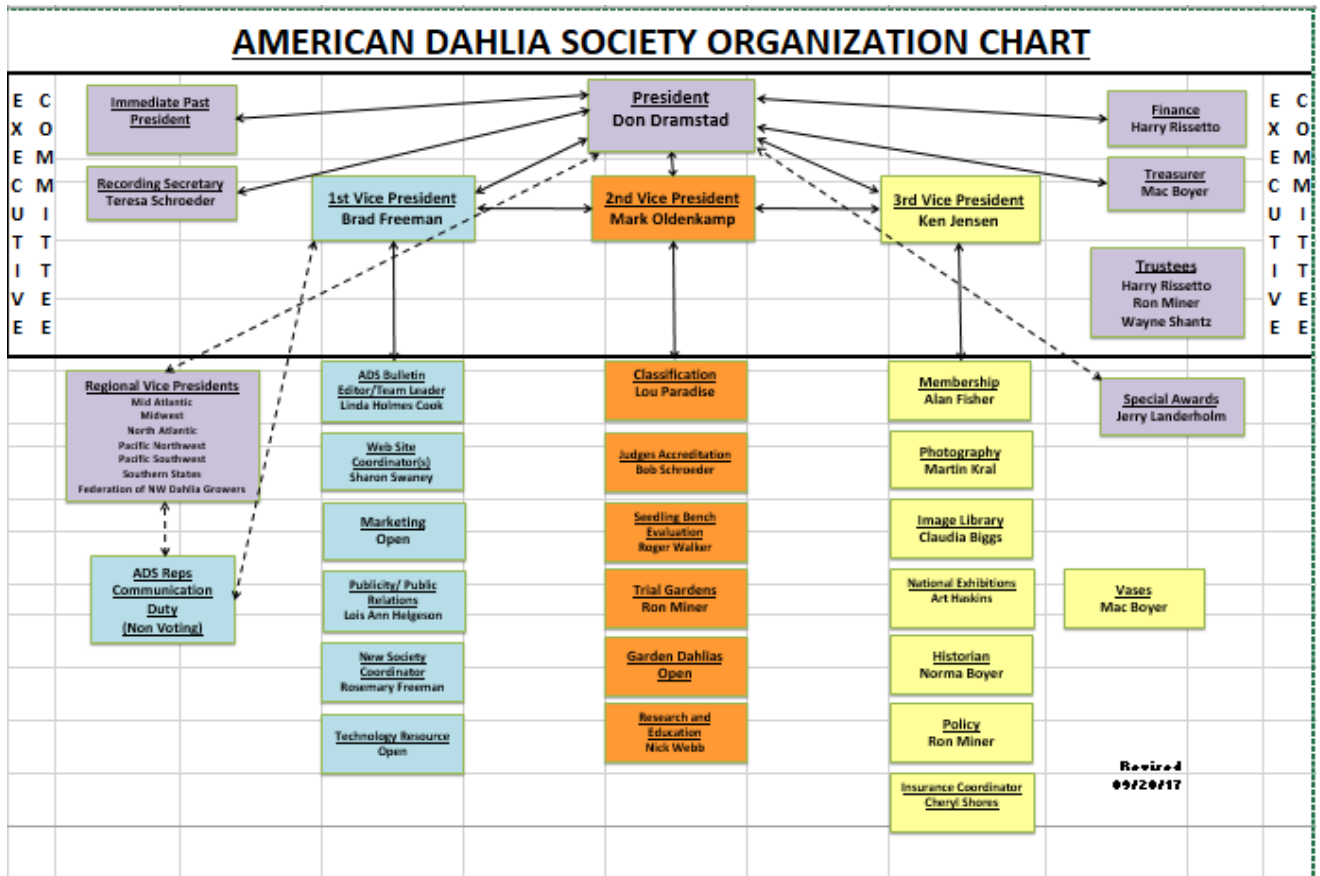
Revisions to the by-laws of the ADS were published in the June 2017, ADS Bulletin and adopted in the September, 2017 Annual Meeting. The primary changes to the By-Laws

involved streamlining the Executive Committee to enhance the operation of the organization and enhance the development of the experience among the ADS leadership. The complete text of the by-laws is presented in Appendix 2.

Revisions to the Bylaws were published in the June 2022 Bulletin and adopted in the September, 2022 Annual Meeting. The changes involved recognition of the evolving differences in standing committees and their names as well as the correction of a number of details in the document. The Bylaws are available on the ADS website.

N. Miscellaneous

Figure 1: 2017 ADS Organizational Chart



Appendices

1. **Bylaws:** *The Bylaws of the American Dahlia Society are available on the ADS website, dahlia.org.*
2. **National Show Handbook:** *The guidelines for preparing for a National Show are available on the ADS website, dahlia.org.*