

**American Dahlia Society
Minutes – Board Meeting
November 12, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm PST by President Brad Freeman.

Present

Board members present were Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Ken Jensen, Terry Schroeder, Charles Miehm, Harry Rissetto, Jerry Landerholm, Dana Alli Richards, Dan Baulig, Karen Sanchez, Jess Becker, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Heather Ramsey, Mel Epstein, Bob Schroeder, Elva Sellens, Debbie Pavich, Larry Smith, Roger Walker, Anna Kandra, Sharon Swaney, and guests, Carol Palmer, Lori Goehring, Sarina Lagor, Laura Fisher.

Remembrances

A long-term board member, Tony Evangelista passed away at the beginning of the month. A long-time Puget Sound Dahlia Association member, Ralph Dines, passed away. Brad asked that we have a moment of remembrance for those two as well as all the dahlia greats that have passed.

Minutes

Minutes from the June 9 and 11, 2023, meeting were sent to board members. **Charles Miehm moved, and Mark Oldenkamp seconded to approve as written. The motion carried.**

Executive Committee

The executive committee met on October 29, 2023. That set of minutes was distributed. The only action was that the budget be distributed to the board on a quarterly basis. It was pointed out the budget is based on actual numbers from the financial statements. Alli Richards moved and Bob Schroeder seconded to approve the actions of the executive committee meeting of October 29, 2023.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President

Brad Freeman hope all enjoyed the summer/fall dahlia growing season this year. Now that the growing season is past, it is time to shine a light on some important ADS matters.

Of critical importance for the Board is what to do about national shows. No national shows are scheduled after 2025 so time is running out for a local or regional dahlia organization to plan and execute a 2026 National Show. After the successful national show in Portland, he was made aware of a few local dahlia societies who may be interested in hosting a national show. However, the difficulty is if you have not hosted a national show before it will take at least four years before you will be ready.

Also, of equal concern is that there is no chair for the national show committee. The ADS needs someone to recruit local dahlia societies to host the national shows; if the position remains open then what is the future for the national shows? This has been

communicated to the ADS board and members over the past couple of years through my reports to the board and messages in the *Bulletin*. I cannot do this alone, everyone on the board must help find the next chair for the national show committee.

At the November 12th Board meeting there will be time to share information about and discuss the proposed migration to Google Workspace. The board can use Google Workspace for better communication and sharing of data. In addition, critical databases including membership and classification should be stored on ADS's Google drive. So far, the efforts to move in these directions have languished so it is time for the board to determine the next course of action.

Treasurer

Charles Miehm reported he sent out the report as of October 31. We have an operating surplus of \$38,000. We have one *Bulletin* left to get out this year. He has put down \$4,000 and anticipates it will run about \$12,000. We should end the year in decent shape. He provided a statement of ownership with the USPS, which is required each year. The statement will be published in the December *Bulletin*. We have started to receive some donations in memory of Tony. A review for the 2022 tax year has been completed by an accountant and all is in order. There was a suggestion to do more organized fundraising for Tony with permission from the family with a specific goal in mind that might benefit the membership of the ADS. Charles felt we could do something. Perhaps the finance committee could work toward this. Harry will work with Ron.

Balance Sheet - October 31, 2023

Unrestricted Funds

Ameriprise Investment Account	\$ 5,357.34
Vanguard Investment Account	\$ 46,439.24
Wells Fargo Bank - checking - operating	\$ 54,553.22
Total Unrestricted Funds	\$ 106,349.80

Restricted Funds

Ameriprise Investment Account - Boeke Bequest	\$ 35,601.02
Wells Fargo Bank - checking account - Virus Fund	\$ 4,308.84
Wells Fargo Bank - checking account - 2025 National Show	\$ 25.00
Wells Fargo Bank - savings account - Genome Project	\$ 92,926.79
Total Restricted Funds	\$ 132,861.65

Total ADS Funds \$ 239,211.45

President

Check GroupVine

First Vice President

Mark Oldenkamp reports After the wind down of the 2023 national show in Portland I have cruised through the balance of the show season and am now progressing well with harvest. Most of our local growers seem to be doing well with this effort.

I continue to be encouraged by the consistent positive feedback on the changes that the ADS board put into motion in the Spring of 2022. I am happy to see us navigate through some to be expected tweaks such as adjusting the Bulletin printing schedule. I think the ability to deal with these kinds of situation demonstrates that we have an effective leadership structure. Thank you for the leadership contributions of our Board as we continue to refine our processes.

Like Brad, I am concerned that we currently do not have a national show host society in place for 2026 forward. I encourage a more “all hands-on deck” approach to this situation and ask that all Board members be involved in the promotion and recruitment process for a host and for a National Show Recruitment Chair to be identified to lead this going forward. ADS has demonstrated a willingness to help with some seed money for National shows and we have experienced people to help coach a society in hosting a show. Remind those you may converse with that a local society or conference should not be intimidated by the efforts you witness at other shows as national shows can be quite similar to your normal show, just you will have more guests, judges, and a few extra meetings.

Our financial situation has stabilized and we are developing a better budgeting process. Post covid, we are still seeing a steady stream of new members.

The Spring meeting generated quite a lot of input on ideas for ADS to consider putting into action. It is time to start sorting through those ideas to distill them into a three-to-five-year plan. This will help us stay more focused on improving our support of local societies and ADS members. Changes will include some stress points, but change is a pathway to a better future. Most immediately I need to make a stronger commitment to migrating to the Google Workspace arena and encourage all ADS leaders to do the same. Our local society has reaped significant benefit already by using some of the tools available.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

Mid Atlantic Conference

Dana Miller reports the dahlia season ended abruptly on November 3rd and 4th in Southeastern PA with two consecutive heavy freezes. So, the big dig begins.

Generally, it was a pretty normal growing year for The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society: a few hot spells, lots of humidity, and fairly timely rain. We had a great society picnic on August 26th at the farm of Jennifer and Thom Cauffman, with educational programs on judging dahlias and disbudding, not to mention great food and socializing.

However, our typical year ended on Thursday, August 31, when convicted murderer Danilo Cavalcante crab-walked his way up the walls of his prison exercise yard to the roof, where he scrambled through razor wire, climbed down to the ground, and

wandered unchallenged into the Chester County countryside. Surveillance cameras spied him walking along Pocopson Road, heading in a southerly direction. Belatedly the alarm was sounded, and the community responded by closing schools, businesses, and roads. People hunkered down in their homes and a reward was offered for information leading to his capture.

By Saturday, security cameras in world-famous Longwood Gardens spotted the diminutive felon and the gardens closed their gates. Up to this point, the story was an amusing curiosity. There seemed to be an undercurrent of skepticism in the effectiveness of the local authorities and law enforcement. However, troubling consequences started dawning on the folks of The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society. What would happen if the criminal continued to elude capture? The Annual Show was scheduled for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (September 8-10) in Longwood's spectacular conservatories and ballroom. Closing the venue would result in cancelling the show. It was hard to wrap one's mind around the idea. As the dates crept closer, the anxiety increased exponentially. But by Monday, September 4, they felt he had left the area. The Gardens remained closed on Tuesday, as always. They reopened Wednesday morning and GPDS members were breathing a little easier. But on Thursday evening, video from earlier in the day showed him on the grounds, and Longwood was evacuated. Later Thursday night, we learned that Longwood would be closed on Friday. Members were notified that our show would be cancelled, and word went out to other societies. Longwood's schedule did not allow for another date, nor were we able to set up an alternative site on short notice.

On Saturday the 9th, the elusive killer stole a van and finally departed the area. It was too late for dahlia enthusiasts and show exhibitors from VA to NY and from NJ to OH; their hopes to display their blooms at Longwood Gardens were dashed. Finally on September 13th, in a drainage ditch near Route 100 in South Coventry Township, Border Patrol K9 Officer Yoda apprehended and subdued Cavalcante. There was no "doggie cam" footage of the capture. Thus ended the most bizarre, unimaginable chapter in The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society's long history.

The year returned somewhat to normal when, after our regular November 4th business meeting, National Capital Dahlia Society member and dahlia grower Rich Gibson Zoomed into the meeting with a fun and informative presentation on hybridizing dahlias. Rich grows the award-winning 20th Ave dahlia line and all forty-some folks on site and others attending online thoroughly enjoyed his seminar.

The Gettysburg Dahlia Society once again led off the Mid-Atlantic Conference show season with their Annual Show on Sept 1st and 2nd, held at the Harbaugh-Thomas library in Biglerville, PA. A special workshop on dividing tubers takes place on November 11 at the home of member Ellise Moynahan in Hanover, PA.

The National Capital Dahlia Society continued with a busy schedule in 2023 with its regularly scheduled monthly meetings, summer show, annual show and the Nordahl Exhibition & Trial Garden installation and maintenance. The 2023 NCDS annual show, held at Brookside Gardens, MD, in my opinion, was one of the most competitive I've experienced, as well as one of its best. At the end of October, a few intrepid souls gathered to break down and clean up the Trial Garden.

North Atlantic Conference

Robert Fackovec reports their member societies had a good 2023 show season. While the weather did not cooperate for many of them, they were well supported and enjoyed by all. The North Atlantic Conference is awaiting the ADS board's final approval for the Nova Scotia Dahlia Society of Canada to join our conference. This will be beneficial to all with increased communication and information between our conference and ADS as an entity. We welcome any other Canadian societies to join us.

Robert had some inquiries into alternates to oasis floral foam for staging our show blooms and received a lot of feedback from members on this. It continues to be a great learning experience for all involved. Any and all feedback on it is welcome.

With the advent of cooler weather in the northeast, our thoughts turn to the task of preparing our plants for winter storage. We'll be sad to see the 2023 dahlia season end but are anxious for the start of a great 2024 one.

Pacific Northwest Conference

Mark Oldenkamp reports PNDC members present for the annual meeting in September had a frank discussion on the status of the Conference. This resulted in a task force being formed to dive into ideas to revitalize the PNDC. This group has had a couple of meetings and some task forces have been formed to work on some identified focus areas. This included ideas for supporting members that are not exhibitors, but also to seek more standardization of judging, clerking, and tallying of our shows. The goal is to streamline the process. More focus on learning and judging the artistic use of dahlias in design and baskets was a significant area that also came out of the discussions.

Judges training dates were selected for 2024, which will provide a couple of options to get in-person training. The online judging modules are an excellent tool, but more learning can happen when sharing and mentoring with experienced judges occurs. We appreciate River's Dahlias volunteering their garden for this training session. We are exploring new technology to improve the experience for remote participants.

There is support for a social and educational and FUN meeting to be held in the winter. The goal is to try to make this happen in February 2024. To make these things happen we are seeking new leadership to take on certain jobs, so the work does not fall to so few. This will be a challenge, but there are some people stepping up already.

Southern States Dahlia Conference

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Pacific Southwest Conference

John Morton reports things are slow in the Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference. Plans are in the works for the February conference to be hosted by the Dahlia Society of California, in San Francisco.

For several years we lamented the lack of rain but this year we nearly caught up with what we were behind the last three years and this coming winter is forecast to be a wet one.

The dates for the dahlia 2024 dahlia shows have been chosen and now we have to pick venues. Funny how those two things just don't go together.

Something interesting happened this last dahlia season. There are shows, even seasons where no bench seedlings are shown. This past year, there were as many as 15 in a single show and more than 10 in others. Perhaps this is another result of the covid years. As with others, we are looking forward to the national show in Washington State. Time to go digging

Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers

Alli Richards reports the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers is busy wrapping up an exciting 2023 season.

They had their annual fall meeting in October. They reelected our current slate of officers for another term; they are an effective team and Alli is proud to be part of it. At the end of the annual meeting, they had a nice presentation of the many Federation dahlia shows with a few statistics. The oldest bloom to get to the head table was Little Beeswing and it was there at multiple shows. Another interesting statistic was the number of prizes that went unawarded.

They are so excited to be hosting the 2024 ADS National Show in Wenatchee, WA! They can't wait to see all our dahlia friends from all over the country again. This year's ADS show in Portland was so much fun with dahlia friends and family; it will be exciting to do it again.

Just as the dahlia season wraps up, we tend to wind down our activities. We'll start back up in 2024 with our spring workshop. We look forward to what 2024 brings and wish you all the best during the holiday season.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADS Store

Dan Baulig reports the year-to-date shipments from the store, through October 31, 2023:

2022 CHD's – 7	2022 3-hole CHD's Large Print - 2
Color Guides – 49	2023 CHD's - 1,061
2023 3-hole CHD's Large Print – 30	Composite Spiral 1976-2022 - 74
Composite 3 hole punched – 36	Guide to Judging Dahlias - 73
October 2022 Bulletin – 49	January 2023 Bulletin - 56
October 2023 Bulletin – 18	2nd 50 Years - 7
Show Tag Rings - 4	

TOTAL SHIPMENTS -1,466

Classification

Karen Sanchez reports work on the 2024 CHD has begun in earnest.

SBE and TG reports are in. Show reporters across ADS have submitted their show reports.

Classification committee members are returning their change request forms and the ensuing compilation of all the data into one manageable book is underway.

As classification chair, she would like to see the show reporting done via an online portal, perhaps via Google Forms/Sheets next year. I believe it would provide more uniformity and ease for both reporter and CHD compiler. More to come on this as we work out the logistics.

Please submit classification change requests to Karen by June of next year so she can get them out to committee members for review.

With the loss of Tony, the classification committee will be looking for someone to step into his vacated position. This will need to be a senior judge actively growing and showing dahlias and regionally located in the central part of the country.

Both the Stanley Johnson and Les Connell medals have been tabulated. Both recipients have been notified. The Stanley Johnson medal was awarded to Kristine Albrecht for KA's Kahleesi AA-ID-W. The Les Connell medal was awarded to Paul and Barbara Bloomquist for Bloomquist Jean.

Cut Flower

Jess Becker reports the cut flower committee wrapped up the year with a YouTube live on September 26th, where they had a moderated Q&A with the four hybridizers who are part of the committee.

The YouTube live was promoted through social media channels including Facebook and Instagram. During the live event we had around just over 100 people pop on to listen to the discussion and since then, it has been viewed 836 times. A big thanks to LeeAnn, Kristine, Rich, and Wayne for agreeing to be part of the panel and Misty Florez for helping. It was the first time the ADS has run a Live YouTube event, and the committee is looking forward to doing more in 2024.

They will be taking a bit of a break here to get tubers dug and enjoy the holidays but will reconvene in 2024.

Editor

Linda reports the decision to change the publication dates for the *Bulletin* was decided at the ADS National Show Annual Meeting in Portland. Publication/ mailing dates will be the first week of December, April and August each year, with the delivery of the newest *Classification Guide and Handbook of Dahlias* being mailed out in February of each year. The December 2023 Bulletin is finished and in production as we speak. We were able to publish a notice of the passing of our 2nd Vice President, Tony Evangelista in this issue. Tony was a regular contributor to the Bulletin, and he will be missed by ADS members all over the country.

In her December "From the Editor" column, I am calling for someone to volunteer to work with me as a co-editor or assistant editor. We need to make sure that we have someone in that role with the experience and ability to take on the role of editor when the time comes. I am starting my 8th year as editor and am turning 75 years old soon. It is only reasonable for us to have redundancy in our positions. Another of those positions is advertising chair for the *Bulletin*. We have had someone indicate an interest,

and Linda has contacted her for an interview, but have yet to get together. Thank you to everyone who is willing to step up to volunteer for these important responsibilities.

Linda states she is getting more information from members, but we are not always able to print everything. Please consult with Linda before sending articles for the *Bulletin*. We can always post additional articles on the website, if necessary.

Wishing you all holiday blessings and time with your families and beloved friends.

Finance

Harry Risetto reports the November 2023 financial numbers were favorable, thanks to membership and ADS store purchases. Overall, 2023 has been a positive year to date. Because of the changes in the timing of the *Bulletins*, the ADS will have a clearer financial picture in 2024. Nevertheless, we are optimistic because the ADS is quicker to adjust to future budgetary challenges.

The committee recommends ADS set a priority to encourage local society members to also join the ADS. They are our greatest source of future growth.

The ADS made modest revenue from the sale of vases. The ADS has a few peripheral initiatives to generate revenue. Advertising has diminished in recent years principally due to the internet. New initiatives need to be explored. For many years, the ADS has solicited bequests and testamentary gifts. It should continue to do so.

The Virus and Genome projects have attracted significant support. They should be continued, along with the possibility of another major product that will stimulate funding and interest.

Garden Dahlias

Alan Fisher reports Laura Fisher from the Central Coast Dahlia Society (California) has joined the garden dahlia committee. We hope that with co-chairs and two perspectives, we can do more to bring the glory of dahlias to gardeners throughout North America. While not all dahlia growers focus on exhibition, some gardeners who start with a casual interest in dahlias go on to deeper involvement – sometimes to judging and exhibiting.

Laura is starting a project to contact experienced growers in various regions of the country, especially including a wide range of growing conditions, to find recommendations for dahlias that are easy to grow and provide pleasing color in gardens. The dahlias that meet these conditions could be different in a coastal climate; an area with hot, humid summers; and in a northern climate with sharp differences in temperatures over the growing season. To take one example: low growing dahlias that thrive in northern Europe and in some Pacific coast areas sometimes have blooms that fade badly in the eastern sections of the U.S. when exposed to strong daylight and hot, humid summers.

We hope to focus more on growing dahlias in containers. Some of our current and prospective members have small plots and must grow in containers on a porch or balcony. Others may have problems with voles or other rodents that attack the roots of plants grown in the ground without protection. Watering and fertilizing are different for plants grown in the ground versus those grown in containers. Some dahlias may transfer well from the ground to pots while others may not. We would welcome a volunteer to work on this issue and provide information that we can share on the

website and in the ADS *Bulletin*.

There is room for more dahlia lovers to join our committee and help generate ideas and information of interest to new growers and to those with a relatively casual interest in dahlias (such as growing dahlias in combination with other types of plants).

Image Library

Heather Ramsay reports the Image Library is collecting photos and information for any 2024 new introductions. If you have any information to send along, please do, and thanks to everyone who has gotten in touch already!

Insurance

Mel Epstein reports the current General Liability Policy expires on March 15, 2024. This coming year Sharon will attempt to complete the online automation that was partially implemented last year. The goal will be to have a Society that applies/renews online not only to get confirmation of the payment, but also an immediate disclosure document and a Certificate of Insurance application.

The Nonprofit Officers and Directors Liability Policy expires on February 1, 2024. We have received notice from the Insurance Company that the Premium may increase at least 15% on renewal. Although that should not be a surprise, we will get competitive quotes at the time of the renewal.

Last winter an effort was made to contact Canadian Societies to see if there was interest in sharing the premiums of a General Liability policy issued by a Canadian Insurance Company. The response was incomplete. This past August Ken Jensen and I discussed the desirability of trying again. He has agreed to review the letter before it is sent to each Canadian Society.

All went smoothly this season for insurance. One society had to get individual one-day insurance as their society was not a registered nonprofit within the state, which was required by the mall. The National Garden Clubs have some information on how to become a registered nonprofit with the federal government and it may be worthwhile to pass that information on to the local societies. It has become a much easier process than it had been previously.

Judging Accreditation

Bob Schroeder reports the Mod Squad (formally called the curriculum committee) has been monitoring the comments and suggestions on how to improve any of the judging modules. They are also in the process of producing modules on judging in the trial garden, seedling bench and in a private garden when a trial garden is not available, using the ADS seedling scorecard. It's been recognized that dahlia societies may have varying abilities to maintain an active judging program while some societies have well-structured judging programs, others may not. To assist clubs in their judging program who lack senior judges to conduct the required training, Bob will be contacting various senior judges to volunteer to hold judging classes via zoom as requested by societies. It is suggested that the modules be used in the zoom training.

The testing committee has completed producing a test for candidate judges. The test was designed using the training modules, CHD, and the *Guidelines for Judging Dahlias*. The test is offered at the completion of module 16. It is taken and graded online. The

committee is currently producing a test for accredited judges, to be followed by a senior judging test.

Membership

Elva Sellens reports this has been a busy year for new memberships. People are discovering the wonderful world of dahlias. I had one new member show in the comments on her membership form – *“I’m joining because I LOVE dahlias*. There have been 792 new memberships since end of 2022 to present– 669 Individual and 123 household memberships (x2 = 246) for a total of 915 new members. Of these new memberships, 140 Individual chose extended new memberships as well as 25 household memberships. The majority of the extended membership were from our website. Of the 140 individual extended memberships, 107 were from the website and 33 were from local society members, and the 25 household extended memberships, 22 were from the website and 3 were from local society members. New members using our website to join seem to like the Extended membership option. I am not sure if the local dahlia societies are giving their new members that extended new membership option or that it might be too expensive to pay the \$45 extended option plus local society dues.

I am starting to get 2024 renewals from our website. Website renewal can be problematic for societies when they complete their insurance renewal form because the form asks how many total members there are in the society and a breakout of how many are ADS members vs. non-ADS members. It would be a bit difficult, especially for the bigger societies to know how many ADS members vs non-ADS members when some join online. The societies can always contact me for verification as to members who have paid their ADS dues.

Elva Sellens moved to change the extended membership dates since the *Bulletin* dates have changed. It was suggested that this analysis be deferred so that we ensure it is done adequately with the most appropriate dates. Brad will work with Elva, Mark, and others to create a new timeline, which needs to be done soon so that Elva can let the membership chairs know about the change. Brad asked Elva to write an article for the *Bulletin* to help local societies use extended membership to encourage members to join ADS through the extended membership. **Harry Rissetto moved and Linda Holmes-Cook seconded to have a task force determine the dates for the extended membership. The motion passed.**

U.S Memberships

We have 2,328 memberships – 1,805 Individual memberships and 523 household memberships (x 2 = 1,046) for a total of 2,951 members. There are 4 affiliated societies and 57 participating societies.

The store manager shows 1,061 2023 classification books were mailed out. This represents 893 of the classification books (U.S. and Canada) were sent out for memberships since January 2023.

Canadian Memberships

There are 9 participating societies in Canada. We have 156 memberships – individual members: 71 print memberships and 43 digital memberships. Household membership: 31 print memberships and 11 digital memberships (42 x 2 = 84) for a total of 198 Canadian members. There were 38 new memberships - 32 new individual members

and 6 household members. Of the 32 new individual members, 4 members chose the extended membership option and 1 household membership chose the extended membership.

Overseas Memberships

We have 12 foreign memberships – 7 digital and 5 print memberships. When an overseas membership joins via PayPal, it does not generate an automatic notice to Elva so there were two that didn't get to Elva. She has asked Charles to watch for any overseas memberships to come through and to have it fixed on the website so the information is automatically sent to Elva.

Total ADS membership is 3,161.

National Exhibition

We need to get the vacancy filled for the national exhibition chair.

Photography

Debbie Pavich reports entries are starting to arrive to the inbox. Thank you, Sharon, and Anna, for your help with the website and social network publicity.

If you have the chance, please let your club members know the deadline to submit photos is December 15th. Photos should be sent to photocontest@dahlia.org. Please see the ADS website for more information. Winners are announced on the website February 14th. Thank you and happy holidays.

The ADS Photo Contest is a wonderful way for dahlia lovers to showcase their blooms this year. I have received some entries. The majority tend to arrive a few weeks before the contest ends. Contest information is on the website and in the bulletin. Several photos have been on the ADS Facebook and Instagram pages mentioning the contest.

Policy

The policy manual was updated in March 2023. The policy manual is on the ADS website. It is a summary of board actions taken and is an ongoing, growing, living document. It allows you to see how things have evolved over time.

Publicity/Public Relations

Larry Smith reports that publicity for the Portland ADS National Show was complete, including advance coverage by two local TV stations, a pre-show article in the Oregonian newspaper, and blasts sent out to local garden clubs and certified Master Gardeners in the area.

Information was posted on social media accounts. The National Committee enjoyed hosting the show and the fellowship with guests. Larry is willing to help/advise publicity committees hosting future Nationals.

Larry has also created a number of publicity videos and posted them on YouTube and Vimeo, including 2023 National Show Highlights (12 minutes), A Visit to Hollyhill Dahlias (6 1/2 minutes), and 2023 Canby Trial Garden year in review (5 minutes). They may be posted on the ADS website, and you may share the links with anyone who may benefit.

Upon the release of 2023 winners of the ADS Medals (Hart, Johnson, Gullikson, Dudley, Connell), media releases will be written and distributed.

The PR Committee has gained a fourth member in Pat Looney, member of the new SW Idaho Dahlia Society. She did a terrific job publicizing SWIDS's first judged show and joins Deborah Dietz (DS of California) and Misty Florez (Yankee DS). It would be helpful to recruit a member from the midwestern area and one from the southern region to ensure representation from all areas; let Larry know if you know of someone who might serve. It's an easy and fun job which mainly entails distribution of information that Larry coordinates and brainstorming for innovative ideas on how to garner positive PR for the dahlia and our organization.

Straying a bit outside of the publicity realm, Bob Shroeder asked Larry to create some video to be used by the Mod Squad/Curriculum Committee for some upcoming modules covering judging in Trial Gardens and ADS Bench.

Research and Education

Genome Sequencing

Kristine Albrecht reports the last three months have primarily been comprised of analysis. Zach presented a poster on the dahlia genome at the American Society of Plant Biology meeting this summer, which was well received by the community. He is currently studying for his written exams, which determine if he is allowed to continue in the program.

Here are some updates on the progress of various manuscripts and projects related to the ADS Dahlia Genome Project:

Manuscript 1: Dahlia Phylogeny chapter. Zach has sequenced and analyzed a 24-library pilot of bait captured sequences (1000 loci). He shared his preliminary analysis of these data at the ADS show. He is now preparing libraries for the remaining plate of DNAs, which includes nearly all dahlia species in the genus in replicate. He also recently opened up a collaboration with Eduardo Ruiz-Sanchez, who maintains a dahlia collection at the Universidad de Guadalajara, and is currently collecting more tissue for Zach to fill out the phylogeny.

Manuscript 2: The Dahlia Genome chapter. Zach has a draft assembly of the dahlia genome completed. There are significant challenges with assembling an octoploid genome, though, especially one with multiple types of whole genome duplications in its history. They are deciding on the best path to take moving forward. The most likely outcome is they will assemble one very high-quality chromosome per group instead of four to eight chromosomes, effectively reducing this complex genome from an octoploid to a monoploid. This reference genome will be much easier to use in downstream analyses. This same approach was taken to assemble the sugarcane genome, <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-05051-5>.

Zach has collected a diversity of tissue types from Edna C in order to annotate genes on these chromosomes, and they will begin sequencing those mRNA sequences soon.

Lastly, Zach is isolating DNA from all 700 individuals from the 2021 ADS show and will begin making sequencing libraries for them in January, in order to identify genes controlling major trait variation in diverse cultivars.

In general, they are on track, and Dr. Harkess is pleased with Zach's progress as a PhD student. Much of his current time is being spent studying for his written and oral

qualifying exams, which he needs to pass in order to stay in his PhD program, a rite of passage, of sorts. He should be finished with those in January, and then can refocus and make more progress on both of these manuscripts..

Seedling Bench Evaluation

Roger Walker reports the 2023 ADS bench evaluation results have been finalized and will be posted on the ADS website. Room permitting, the medal winners will be listed in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

2023 Lynn B. Dudley medal winners:

Small	Narrows Lilly	Ken & Marilyn Walton
Miniature	Clearview Ginger	Richard Parshall
Miniature Ball	20 th Ave for Mom	Rich Gibson

2023 Evie Gullikson medal winner:

Mignon Single	Lo-Peach	Wayne Lobaugh
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Social Media

Current stats:

Facebook followers: 6,032

Facebook group members: 8,953

Instagram followers: 11,211

Special Awards

Jerry Landerholm reports special awards congratulates the dahlia people who received ADS medals and other awards during 2023. Two members, Rosemary Freeman and Anthony “Tony” Evangelista received the ADS Gold Medal at the 56th ADS National Show in Portland. This is our highest medal award, and we applaud Rosemary and Tony for all they have done for the ADS. Several other people received awards in Portland, and they have been identified on the ADS website and in an article supplied to the “*Bulletin*.” Thank you to the Portland Dahlia Society for coordinating with Special Awards in this process. The “Clean Stock Offense” award continued in 2023 with four people identified for making exceptional contributions toward reducing the inhibiting influences of dahlia viruses. Again, more details on the above are available on our website and in society publications.

Next on the agenda is to act on the reports coming in from the seedling bench evaluation and trial garden committees. There are medals to be engraved and letters to write. Thanks in advance to those who assist in making these presentations and to all who make the various ADS awards programs meaningful. Thank you for helping special awards give deserved recognition.

Technology Resource

Jess Becker reports there isn't much to report, although there are a few items to discuss on the agenda, but the ADS Google Workspace and Drive is set up. Folders have been established for various segments of the board to use.

Overall, participation is low. Outside of Jess, she is not aware of anyone who has been using it to store documents. She also hasn't fielded any requests for additional training.

Trial Garden

Marilyn reports most of our trial gardens did a wonderful job this growing season. The directors are to be commended for their work! All but two of the reports came to me at or prior to the date required, which is Oct 10th. The other two gardens were late by five days and more than ten days.

Marilyn has some concerns about two of the gardens. She has spoken to Brad and several originators. There are some issues that need to be addressed, which Brad is looking into for a road forward.

My thanks to Colin for waiting for our report and hopefully getting it into the bulletin. By the time you read this, Sharon should have the report for the website.

Marilyn stated she was saddened to hear of Tony's passing as he was an asset to the ADS and also his home society. She will miss talking with him as they worked on issues regarding the trial gardens.

Website

Sharon Swaney reports the late summer/fall website activities include:

Enhancements to the donation features of the site

- Made the ability to donate to ADS a bit more obvious.
- Updated the Donate page, streamlined some of the information and announced the ability to donate online.
- Working with Charles and using DonorBox, we made all online ADS donations consistent. We accept online "Specified Donations (in memory, in honor of, to virus research, to the General Fund, and other as defined by the donor)" and "Special Gifts," which are delineated into three categories \$100-\$499, \$500-\$999, \$1000 and over.

Posting of National Show Information

- Results, pictures, videos. Special thanks to Bob Schroeder for pictures and Larry Smith for videos.
- Extensive awards (to people) information posted.

Year-end Local Show Report

- Posted Nov 1.
- Fairly good participation.
- Allowed great latitude to the reporters as to how their reports were formatted, with mixed success.
- Still some confusion in the process.

Season information just starting to come in

- Seedling bench info posted.
- Trial garden pictures received from one garden only (thanks Schroeders) and a video for Canby, thanks Larry.

OLD BUSINESS

National Show Chair

Brad stated there is not a national show scheduled past 2025 and there is not a chair for the committee, despite asking for people to step up to take on that position. The board needs to determine what we will do. There are some challenges. Several societies have hosted numerous national shows and we keep going back to them. Another challenge is that societies don't have enough people or funding to put on a national show. We need to determine what we are going to do about national shows.

Bob Schroeder offered to be a temporary national show chair. It was suggested to have a committee comprised of representatives from societies that have hosted national shows over the past several years. Brad Freeman appointed Bob Schroeder as national show chair and the board approved. Larry Smith, Harry Rissetto, Dan Baulig and Brad Freeman agreed to serve on the committee. We need to be able to give local societies information that can assist them in deciding to host a national show.

Advertising Manager

Linda reports there is a person who has expressed interest but they have not been able to connect. It would be helpful if we have a clear concept of what advertising would look like and how we want to use an advertising manager. Linda and Colin would do a zoom interview with anyone interested in being the advertising manager. The member survey indicated members wanted advertising in the *Bulletin*. Brad suggested Linda and Colin determine a list of potential advertisers and bring that to the board to determine which ones we wanted to use. We also need to determine how much space we want to dedicate to advertisements. It was suggested to think about advertising on the website as well, with a link to the advertisers, and package them together.

Strategic Plan Update

Brad Freeman asked Alli Richards to lead an ad hoc committee to distill the ideas we generated at the spring planning meeting this year into some action items that we can pursue in the next several years. Over the next six months, Brad would like to have that group create fifteen to twenty action items that could be discussed at the 2024 spring planning meeting. We can then focus our energies on those items. He plans to ask some of the people who responded to his request for their top 10 ideas, the former committee.

Bulletin Scanning

Most of the Bulletins have been scanned. If people have some old Bulletins we might be able to fill the holes that have not been scanned. Sharon can provide information on what she has. Linda has found some from the 20s from her dad's collection. Sharon will prepare a list of what is missing. She will contact the person who did the scanning to determine what is still needed.

Board/Committee Contact List

There has been a desire to have a list of current board members. There is a list on Google Drive that board members can complete. In early July, a link was sent to have everyone add their information to the contact list. Here is the link board members can use to add their contact information and get contact information for other board members. You can bookmark this link; if you need help doing so, let Jess know and she can help. Brad stated he downloaded a google app on his computer and it added a "G" drive on his file manager, where he can save information directly.

NEW BUSINESS

Moving Email Addresses to Google Workspace

Google Workspace

Jess has set up folders on Google Drive for the committees. The folders can be set up so only certain people have access or have certain functions. We have information that is scattered; this would consolidate it in one location. We need to start getting some of the more valuable information placed there and determine who needs to have access.

With the google workspace, we had to register dahlia.org as part of the domain. With that, we get free email for all who want it. It allows unique emails for anyone in the organization. When someone leaves a position, that email account would be passed on to another person. The email addresses need to be dedicated dahlia.org addresses. Currently, everyone has an email with a dahlia.org address, but most are not dedicated; it is an alias that forwards the email to their personal email. We would need to migrate the addresses from Servelet to Google Workspace. This would be a dedicated email that board members would need to check; it would not go to their personal email address. Jess will need to work with Sharon to get those with dedicated email moved to google and then get the rest of the emails done. When we get the Google Workspace functioning, we can replace it for email communication instead of GroupVine. **Terry Schroeder moved and Sharon Swaney seconded to move emails from Servelet to Google Workspace. The motion carried.**

Second Vice-President

With the passing of Tony Evangelista, we have a vacancy at the second vice-president position. In accordance with the bylaws, Brad Freeman asked Alli Richards to fill Tony's term until elections in 2024. **Mark Oldenkamp moved and Karen Sanchez seconded to approve the appointment of Alli Richards as second vice-president to fill Tony's position. The motion carried.** Karen Sanchez stated she will also be looking for someone centrally located to fill Tony's position on the classification committee.

New Society Chair

Brad stated he has filled the new society coordinator position with Sarina Lagor, with the Southwest Idaho Dahlia Society. They are working on the transition between Rosemary and Sarina. **Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook moved and Mel Epstein seconded to approve the appointment of Sarina Lagor as new society coordinator. The motion carried.**

Co-Chair for Garden Committee

Laura Fisher, Central Coast Dahlia Society, has agreed to become a co-chair for the garden committee. **Alli Richards moved and Charles Miehm seconded to approve Laura as co-chair of the garden committee. The motion carried.** Alan Fisher is looking forward to having a co-chair for the committee.

Regional Vice-President

Admiral Dave Smith has agreed to take on the role of the regional vice-president for the Mid-Atlantic Conference to replace Dana Miller. Admiral Dave Smith is the immediate past president of the National Capital Dahlia Society (NCDS) and has been active for about 10 years with NCDS. **Bob Schroeder moved and Mark Oldenkamp seconded to approve the appointment of Admiral Dave Smith to the regional vice-president position with the Mid-Atlantic Conference. The motion carried.**

The Southern States Conference has nominated Lori Goehring as the regional vice-president of the southern states conference. Lori was on the call and gave a brief introduction. She is a member of the Georgia and North Carolina Dahlia Societies and has been growing dahlias for twenty-three years. **Harry Rissetto moved and Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook seconded to approve Lori Goehring as the regional vice-president for the Southern States Conference. The motion carried.**

Nominating Committee

In 2024, we need to have elections of officers. Brad Freeman asked, and Jerry Landerholm agreed to be the chair for the 2024 nominating committee. Per the bylaws, Jerry will select two members to serve on the committee and two members are selected by the board. Charles Miehm and Larry Smith were selected by the board to join the 2024 nominating committee. The nominating committee needs to be formed no later than February. Jerry will select two more members to serve on the committee.

Nova Scotia Dahlia Society Joining North Atlantic Conference

Robert Fackoveck has been in communication with the Nova Scotia Dahlia Society and they would like to join the North Atlantic Conference. Presently Nova Scotia is independent. This is a conference decision as long as the conference wants to add Nova Scotia to their conference. Brad felt that Robert has communicated with all parties involved including the North Atlantic board and Nova Scotia leadership. Once it is accomplished, Robert needs to let the board know so that the committees that need the information will have it.

Judging Workshops – Live Stream

Bob Schroeder stated that there are several societies that don't have access to a senior judge to be the judging chair or there may be only one senior judge. He is proposing to have approximately ten senior judges be instructors via zoom to be able to reach societies that are in outlying areas. They would develop a curriculum to teach via zoom using the modules and other information. Jess stated that Ron Miner and Tony Evangelista developed a course using the modules. She will send the links to the ones that she was able to record. He'd like to be able to have the society contact Bob to set up the training at the level they would desire. It was suggested to use two instructors.

Meeting Schedule for 2024

Brad sent out the meeting schedule for 2024. Tied to this is the spring planning and board meeting. It's always difficult to find the optimal time to have this meeting. This year, he would like to allow the strategic planning committee to work on distilling the ideas that were developed in the 2023 spring planning meeting over the next several months and schedule it in June. Bob is working on a location. He has spoken with people in the southern states. It is felt that 2024 is not a suitable time as there are a lot of changes going on, but perhaps in 2025 it might be possible. The work on the genome project is being done in Auburn and it would be interesting to do a tour. One suggestion was Minnesota; Bob will contact them. He had contacted Yankee Dahlia Society and they did not feel they were quite ready for that. Utah is another possibility. The first two weekends in June would be optimal.

According to the schedule, the next board meeting will be March 3, 2024.

Charles Miehme moved and Harry Rissetto seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm PST.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder, ADS Secretary