

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am EDT by President Brad Freeman.

### **Present**

Board members present were Brad Freeman, Mark Oldenkamp, Tony Evangelista, Ken Jensen, Terry Schroeder, Charles Miehm, Jerry Landerholm, Harry Rissetto, Ron Miner, Dan Baulig, Lou Paradise, Karen Sanchez, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Alan Fisher, Heather Ramsey, Mel Epstein, Jessica Becker, Bob Schroeder, Elva Sellens, Rosemary Freeman, Debbie Pavich, Larry Smith, Kristine Albrecht, and Sharon Swaney. Several members from local and distant dahlia societies were in attendance.

### **Minutes**

**Bob Schroeder moved, and Larry Smith seconded to approve the minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting, September 2021 as written. The motion passed.**

### **OFFICERS REPORTS**

#### **President**

Brad Freeman welcomed all to the 2022 ADS Annual Meeting at the National Show hosted by the National Capital Dahlia Society. Brad stated this is not a board meeting but what he refers to as a state of the union address for the ADS. There are a few business items that need to be taken care of. This has been a significant year for the ADS with several transformative changes in the way the organization operates. We have had a huge surge in new members. The board felt that to have a sustainable future we needed to make some changes. The three guiding principles

1. Simplify our practices/procedures to make the organization easier to manage.
2. Organization is run by volunteers and the load was pretty heavy for some of our volunteers
3. While the ADS is fiscally solvent, our dues were not covering our operating budget. We needed to get the operating budget in balance while still maintaining our membership benefits.

The things we decided to do this year:

1. Membership survey emailed directly to all members. The survey was long, 40 questions. We received 475 responses out of 2,000 members. The information was valuable.
2. Reviewed the bylaws and found some significant changes. We added some committee chairs, social media committee chaired by Anna Kandra, ADS store manager, Dan Baulig and *Bulletin* advertising manager, Meredith Smallstig. The changes to the bylaws had a lot to do with the membership. The membership options were complex and needed to be simplified. There is a synopsis of the revisions on the website.
3. The biggest change is with the *Bulletin*. The goal has been to have a full-color publication that celebrates the diversity of the color of the dahlia. When we got the results of the membership survey, the membership was pushing to do something different with the *Bulletin*. It was decided to reduce the number of

issues to three times per year which would lessen the load on the editor. We needed more time in the fall to get all the information that was included in the December *Bulletin* completed. The costs were higher in December due to a surcharge by the post office. In order to do a color publication, we needed a consultant to help with the design and layout. Colin Walker was chosen to be this consultant. It will be full color, magazine-sized publication.

4. The other piece to tackle was membership. Dues were not meeting our operating budget. We hadn't had an increase in dues since 2011 so we decided to ask for a little more, so we don't have to increase again in a few years. We eliminated the first-class mail option, as the participation was low, and it was costly to the ADS. We looked at the dues structure for our Canadian members, with input from Ken Jensen, Second Vice-President from the Alberta Dahlia and Gladiolus Society. We decided to offer a digital option with a reduced cost. We are still considering a digital option to the US. We also switched our overseas associates will be digital only. The benefit to them is they will receive the information in a timelier manner. Libraries will continue to receive print publications.
5. The majority of the membership don't exhibit. They grow dahlias just for the joy and for cut flowers. There is a large trend in persons growing dahlias for the cut flower trade. There is now a cut flower committee. There is a display in one of the exhibition rooms about cut flowers. This committee is working on characteristics of dahlias that work for cut flowers.
6. The *Guide for Judging Dahlias* was updated and developing a judging curriculum. We've needed these projects to be completed for several years. With the pandemic keeping us home and zoom meetings being used by everyone, it was a good time to get these accomplished. It was felt that we needed to provide a copy of the *Guide to Judging Dahlias* to each member of the ADS.
7. A few years ago, we reorganized the ADS board, through Mark Oldenkamp's leadership, to help streamline our operations. Through bylaw changes, we created the executive committee, comprised of officers and trustees. The executive committee met a few times this spring to discuss and implement these changes. We also changed printers that will be able to get our publication mailed out in a timely manner.
8. Our insurance chair has looked at our risks and liabilities similar to a small business. He suggested liability insurance for directors and officers, which also covers employees, including volunteers. This covers anyone who is working on behalf of the ADS. The benefit of this is they pay for your defense when there is a claim. Another issue was our risk with our digital assets which are all subject to risks. It was decided to get cyber insurance to protect against digital risks. The costs of these are reasonable.
9. The minutes will no longer be published in the *Bulletin* but will be on the website only. The minutes were taking up about one-third of the *Bulletin* space.

### **Treasurer**

Charles Miehme reported it has been a hard year. He provided a report showing this year's expenses plus a comparison of the past several years. We had a few multiple year expenses this year. We printed the *Guide to Judging Dahlias* at a cost of \$14,000. Although they were distributed to members, they are available in the store and are

selling, even to non-members. Bob Schroeder stocked up on some judging pins and now has sufficient judging pins for several years. We also printed the composite CHD, which was a larger expense. The composite is done every five years. The printing costs should be a little less; postage may be a little more due to the larger size, but they are packaged in clear plastic so that helps to keep the postage cost down, especially to Canada. There were also some increases in insurance, but our insurance fund is covering all insurance costs. With new members, they received a new member packet that cost almost as much as their dues for a year. We now send new members a thank you letter, provide them access to the members only section so they can look at all the *Bulletins* going back to the 1930s. Advertising income has gone down. With the new *Bulletin* format, there are more options on size and placement of ads. It is hoped that the net deficits will decrease. We are financially solvent. Harry Rissetto asked to have an audit done. Charles has been looking around to find a CPA to do it at a reasonable cost. So far, he has found one who estimated a cost of \$14,000.00, which he felt is out of the question. He is continuing to look.

#### **TOTAL ADS FUNDS AS OF 09/30/2022**

Ameriprise Account (restricted)	\$ 41,474.92
Ameriprise Account (unrestricted)	\$ 23,632.46
Vanguard Account (unrestricted)	\$ 58,397.97
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	\$ 123,505.35
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#### **TOTAL ADS FUNDS AS OF 09/15/22**

Wells Fargo Bank Account	\$ 66,059.01
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Total Funds Available	\$ 189,564.36

#### **RESTRICTED FUNDS**

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

Virus Fund	\$ 3,277.02
Genome Project	\$ 78,062.99
2023 National Show	\$ 1,900.00
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Total Restricted	\$ 83,240.01

**Alan Fisher moved, and Ron Miner seconded to approve the treasurer's report, subject to audit. Motion passed.**

#### **First Vice-President**

Since the spring planning meeting the process of fine tuning and implementing the directions from the board has been focused. President Brad has done a masterful job of

taking on many details and led us to a point where we can move into the new age for ADS.

The *Bulletin*, Publications, and Membership all have big updates. The store is selling more publications than ever before. Our membership is increasing, and we are taking step to get fiscally sound and to look toward the future. While painful in some respects, the modernization of ADS practices is especially important for our future sustainability.

I am enthused by the vision of our leadership and the willingness to embrace change. It is not always easy.

### **Second Vice-President**

The pandemic sparked a renewed interest in gardening in general and in dahlias in particular. The ADS responded to the huge influx of new members by utilizing a survey to get a finger on the pulse of our enlarging membership and to welcome all new members regardless of their varied reasons to love our favorite flower. We have embraced our cut flower enthusiasts as well as casual growers. We set out on a long-lasting path to fiscal responsibility and balanced budgets. We examined every aspect of our organization and decided how we could maximize membership benefits for all our members and do so in a fiscally responsible manner. The new *Bulletin* is truly transformative. The newly rewritten *Guide to Judging Dahlias* with the new judging modules will clarify the judging process and provide an easier entry portal for new judges. We have embraced digital services in a measured manner and met our ongoing insurance needs head on. Your board wants to be responsive to our members and help enable us all to enjoy the dahlia to the fullest.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to any board member with your ideas and suggestions. It is truly a transformative time.

### **REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS**

Brad stated he would like to fill the two empty regional vice president position in the North Atlantic Conference and the Southern States conference. He has talked with some people in the north Atlantic area but hasn't had much communication with the southern states conference. He would like two individuals who would be active and can travel to the spring planning meetings and the annual meeting.

### **Mid-Atlantic Conference – Dana Miller**

"Moderate" is probably the best word to describe the weather this spring in the Mid-Atlantic States. Extreme temperatures have been limited to a couple of days here and there. As usual, rainfall pretty much depends on the area. This year, it seems to be favoring those more to the south of the mid-Atlantic area. Fortunately, we have been spared the extreme hot temperatures that much of the country is dealing with. We consider ourselves lucky so far. With conscientious watering, the dahlias are looking pretty good.

We anticipate a great show season. This is particularly important to the National Capital Dahlia Society as they sponsor the ADS National Show in Reston, Virginia, on the weekend of September 22-25. Despite the frenzy of getting all the logistics in order for the show, the NCDS has kept up a regular schedule with their monthly meetings, tuber sales, society picnic, the huge job of planting and maintaining their trial garden in

Derwood, MD and preparing for their Mid-Summer Show on August 8th. The trial garden will be a stop on the one of the tours offered at the National Show.

The Gettysburg Dahlia Society had successful tuber sales and is preparing for their Show at the Harbaugh-Thomas Library in Biglerville, PA.

The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society had record-breaking tuber sales this spring. The first sale moved from downtown Kennett Square to Pratt's Greenhouse in Avondale, and they had many dahlia enthusiasts looking for tubers. They almost doubled sales at our Longwood Gardens Tuber Extravaganza two weeks later on May 14<sup>th</sup>, selling over 800 tubers!!! Membership has grown to over 100. Their next function is the Society picnic at Dana and Cindy Miller's gardens, where over 300 varieties of dahlias will be on display. Judging seminars, flower arranging, plenty of good eats, and socializing are planned. The annual Dahlia Show is at their regular site, Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA, on September 17 and 18.

They look forward to seeing everyone at the National Show. In the meantime, enjoy the best time of the year for growing dahlias.

### **Midwest Conference**

Randy Foith reports it's been a trying growing season for Midwest dahlia enthusiasts. The weather has tested our determinations to the fullest. Hot then cool, wet then dry, definitely challenging. The show results are a testament to the skills of the members. Seeing the novice sections expand is a delight for the future. Much of that is owed to our new members social media presence.

Thanks to the Elkhart Dahlia Society for a great Midwest Dahlia Conference Show in Shipshewana, IN. President Rusty Ritchie wants to thank the Southtown Dahlia Society, Central States Dahlia Society, and the West Michigan Dahlia Society for the support they gave in sharing the workload to make the show a great success. Also, to the many Midwest Dahlia Societies who made financial contributions from their treasuries. The venue was spacious and quite easy to access and navigate. The banquet was fun and included 110 enthusiasts from all over the Midwest Conference. The buffet food was tasty to the palate; no complaints on that! The James "Bud" Moore award is given at the Midwest Dahlia Conference Show by the host society to the person that personifies their society. Bud's story can be read on the Midwest Dahlia Conference website. This year there were two awards. Those receiving the 2022 awards were Steve Kuiper and McQuithy "Mac" Boyer. Both are long time growers and well respected throughout the Midwest Dahlia Conference and to the American Dahlia Society at large. Steve and Mac are the Bonneville Trial Garden Directors in Elkhart, IN. Jerry Landerholm gave the ADS Silver Medals to Steve Kuiper, Cammi Waggoner, and Rusty and Anita Ritchie for their dedication and support of the ADS; dahlia ambassadors all!

All well deserving participants for their commitment to the Elkhart Dahlia Society. Midwest Conference President Randy Foith asks that everyone focus on the people there. Jerry Landerholm said of Bud Moore's statement "That I first came for the dahlias, then I came for the people". All 1500 of the blooms have already expressed their beauty and presence. Thanks again to the Midwest Dahlia Conference members for their due diligence for 2022.

### **Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference**

Mark Oldenkamp reports our northwest societies experienced significant delays in planting their gardens this year. Some did not complete planting until the early part of July. The earlier shows may have less blooms than normal.

Portland is providing a team-taught judging class on July 30th. Some conference members will participate via Zoom. We will be using at least one module of the training tools being developed by the hard working select committee. The preview showing at the ADS planning meeting gave us a glimpse of how good these are going to be. From what I have seen these along with the new Guide to Judging Dahlias will be positive. We have quite a few potential candidate judges that have signed up for the class.

The planning process for 2023 National show has been fairly quiet. Some Oregon based members plan to attend the National show in Virginia. Hope everyone is saving the date for the last weekend in August 2023 in Portland.

Judging at the Canby Trial Garden will begin soon. The weather has been cooler, and the plants are doing reasonably well.

It appears that most societies will have shows this year, one is not planning a show as they try to regroup after Covid.

### **Pacific Southwest Dahlia Conference**

John Morton reports the Pacific Southwest Dahlia shows are over. They went by so fast. The Dahlia Society of California, San Leandro Dahlia Society, Central Coast Dahlia Society and Monterey Bay Societies all had beautiful shows. There were fewer blooms but that was probably due to the weather and the fact we have gotten so little rain this season. This is the third year we have had minimal rain.

The San Diego County has their show set for next year, so the Pacific Southwest Conference is looking forward to that.

A judging seminar was held in San Leandro just before their show season began and had a sizable number of participants from the local societies. The Portland Society held a judging Zoom session and a couple of our San Diego folks were on that call. They have no senior judges at this time.

They are looking forward to a good winter and a great season next year. We are still in drought conditions and have fires raging all over the state. The skies are brown from the smoke particles as the fires continue to ravage our beautiful state. In one area, people are bringing in buckets of water to put in troughs for the wildlife. More than half the Tule Elk in one park have died from lack of water. Truly tragic. As true dahlia lovers we say, next year will be better.

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

Alli Richards wishes a happy fall from the Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers!

They have had a great show season even with some challenging weather. Everyone had a wonderful time with dahlia friends and family. The blooms were just lovely and the different shows' head tables looked stunning. This year we had a nice increase in novice exhibitors. Many started their first show season off with a bang! The public was excited as always to see the shows. The last show of the season was in Wenatchee,

WA; this show is always a great end to the season with an amazing venue, blooms, and friends!

The Federation was able to have their summer workshop and judging classes in person. It was so nice to be together focusing on growing and sharing our knowledge of the beloved dahlia. In August they had a judging class at the trial garden in Tacoma that was well attended. It was a great opportunity to learn at the trial garden as well as help get the entries judged to be considered for ADS introduction. This is a wonderful opportunity for our newer members to learn from our senior judges. The hands-on learning is invaluable for the growth of our judges.

Our annual fall meeting is in October. This is the meeting where we will award the Federation Dahlia of the Year medals. Wishing all of you a prosperous digging season!

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **ADS Store**

Dan Baulig reports book sales are going very well. He is selling lots of books every month. The store has a NEW book for sale. Dan just received the 3-hole punched Composite book. The retail price is \$17.00 to USA members and \$34.00 to Canada/Mexico members. This will be added to the website this week.

Holiday Postage rates are going into effect.

### **Advertising**

Before transitioning out of the advertising role, Jess helped Linda with reformatting ads and reaching out to current vendors to let them know of the change in publication.

A few yearly advertisers will be moved to the first issue of next year since they had already paid.

Jess met with Meredith to get everything transferred over to her.

Meredith produced a cut sheet to send to advertisers.

### **Classification**

Karen Sanchez and Lou Paradise report classification members have been reviewing flowers suggested for change during the show season. Lou has been working with Karen to ensure a smooth transition in committee leadership and duties. They await the show reports and remind clubs that reports need to be submitted by 10/10/22 or earlier. The annual classification committee meeting is scheduled for 8 am on 9/25/22 at the National show venue.

They want to remind hybridizers to consult the new CHD each year. Clearview Daniel has been retired from the classification request list. The test for micros will go to 2025.

**The board will take up the classification committee recommendations at the next meeting in November.**

### **Cut Flower**

Jess Becker reports the cut flower committee has been getting together once a month to work on how we can educate growers and increase awareness of dahlias as a cut flower.

They have been identifying the characteristics of dahlias as a cut flower, as well as developing website copy, a survey, and a display for the national show.

### **Editor**

Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook reports the October issue of the ADS *Bulletin* is in the hands of our production manager (Colin Walker) and printer/mailing service (Consolidated Press). This issue will be full of color, as well as articles and features that will benefit all. The club reports are always a great read, and this issue we feature more than we have had in a long time.

Linda is looking forward to getting it in the hands of everyone by the beginning of October. Thank you to all our contributors as well as our ADS publications team and our intrepid leader Brad Freeman.

### **Finance**

Harry Rissetto reports the financial communications from the Treasurer reflect that the ADS's cash position is more than sufficient to meet its current and anticipated debts through 2023. The restricted funds are in good order; their value go up and down with the market.

An audit of the ADS finances is being arranged and will be completed shortly.

### **Garden Dahlia**

Alan Fisher reports he has a copy of Steve Nowotarski's video on growing dahlias in containers. He can bring it to Reston and give it to someone to arrange to make a digital copy to make available to download from the ADS website. Most of this season he has been tied up with projects for the ADS National Show. He has added a few items over the past year for new growers. He is looking forward to working with the cut flower committee. Those interested in cut flowers make up a large number of the ADS members.

### **Historian**

We continue to add things to our archive at the Cherokee Library in Atlanta.

### **Image Library**

Heather Ramsay reports the format of the New Introductions program was well received, so she will continue similarly this season with both a video and silent PDF version. Collection of photos for 2023 new introductions has begun and we could always use more images from anyone who has them to share.

### **Insurance**

Mel Epstein reports the ADS has offered local societies participation in its unique club general liability policy which offers coverage for property damage and bodily injury at a very cost-effective rate for several years. This year there was almost 100% participation in this program, which allows local societies to get the certificates of insurance required by many venues to hold events. It also offers these societies protection from liability claims which, although rare, can be serious. This year each subscriber has also received a brief summary of the exclusions from the policy coverage in addition to instructions on how to manage a potential claim. For next year it is planned to have the application process online as an optional method of efficiently participating in the program.



The risks to a national non-profit have changed over the long history of ADS. The directors and officers have recognized this and have added a specific O&D policy to include many risks not covered by a general liability policy. Mel emphasizes the Officers and Directors insurance provides legal advice for a potential claim.

They have also recognized the gradual shift to doing business online with the website being the hub for this activity. The significant increase in cyber-crime has resulted in ADS adding a broad cyber insurance policy to its portfolio which will give it financial protection from claims as well as pointing out detected weaknesses in the organization's IT platform. It will help us manage digital assets in a more professional way.

### **Judging Accreditation**

Bob Schroeder reports with the pandemic slowly fading in our memory, there were some benefits to it, unbelievably. During 2020, individuals were limited in activities which resulted in thinking of things to do. In the ADS it was decided to bring the group into the 21st century by updating things that had only been talked about among a few. In the ADS judging program it had been mentioned an update to the *Guidelines to Judging Dahlias* was due. At the request of the president, a committee was assembled with senior judges representing areas across the US and Canada. It was decided how to proceed with the update. Meetings were held every three to four weeks via Zoom. Meetings continued until late 2022 when a completed *Guidelines to Judging Dahlias* had been produced. Upon printing the new manual, the ADS board decided to provide a copy to all ADS members. At the same time, another committee was formed to develop a curriculum for all three levels of judges. Again, the committee was selected from senior judges representing the US and Canada. This committee also met via Zoom every three to four weeks. To assist in the training of judges, the committee decided a valuable tool would be slides (modules) which would be available to all. Fifteen slides, covering all areas of judging, have been developed and will be available on the ADS website soon.

Thanks to all members of both committees for sharing their time, knowledge, and patience in participating in these difficult but needed projects.

### **Membership**

Elva Sellens reports This has been another busy year for new memberships. We had 191 new memberships who joined ADS late 2021 and 552 memberships who have joined ADS in 2022 for a total of 743 memberships which comprised of 633 individuals and 129 family memberships (x2 = 258) for a total of 891 new U.S. members from 9/1/21 to present. 686 of these members joined through dahlia societies and 205 from the website. There were 35 new Canadian memberships – 32 individuals and 3 family membership (x2 = 6) for a total of 38 new Canadian members. Total combined U.S. and Canadian new members is 929. We have the new membership rates on our website. We are offering a digital membership to the Canadians and two of the new Canadian members elected a digital membership. We are having new members electing the new extended membership option on our website. I am getting some negative feedback about the extended membership option from several societies due to the amount of the extended membership of \$45 then the new member has to also pay the local society dues. The combined membership dues are a bit pricey for new members. The option would be to start their ADS membership for the following year at the \$30 rate.

We have the three new societies – Southwest Idaho Dahlia Society who joined in November 2021 and the Burlington Dahlia Society and the Gardeners of Greater Youngstown who joined in 2022.

### **U.S. Membership**

We have 2,177 memberships – 1,613 individuals and 564 household memberships (formerly family) (x2= 1,128) for a total of 2,741 U.S. members. -

There are 57 participating societies and 4 affiliated societies. We welcome Southwest Idaho and Burlington Dahlia Society as Participating Societies and Gardeners of Youngstown as an Affiliated Society.

### **Canada Membership**

We have 156 memberships – 109 individual and 47 household memberships (x2 = 94) for a total of 203 members.

There are 9 Canadian participating societies.

### **Other Foreign**

We have two new foreign memberships for a total of 19 members.

### **New Society Coordinator**

Rosemary Freeman reports last year we added 4 new societies: the Yankee Dahlia Society in MA, the Central Carolina Dahlia Society in NC, the Southwest Idaho Dahlia Society in Idaho, and the Burlington Dahlia Society in NC.

It has been a little quiet on new society requests this year. I've had a few requests for information, which I've sent, but no feedback as yet.

It has been beneficial having the Regional Vice-Presidents communicate with these newer clubs and individuals. They answer their questions on how the local societies run their clubs, help with finding solutions in learning how to judge dahlias or how to put on a show or provide information about growing dahlias. They assist with spring planting and winter storage methods. Rosemary mentions using the ADS website in the Know and Grow sections and mentions signing up for the ADS Facebook and Instagram accounts. She encourages them to continue to use Zoom meetings for learning experiences throughout the year. They can open meetings to other clubs and individuals, all the comforts of home and no driving in the dark cold months.

### **Photography**

Debbie Pavich reports the deadline to submit photos is December 1st. Contest information can be found on the ADS website and in the *Bulletin*. Debbie has started to receive entries. Anna has helped publicize the contest on the social media pages.

### **Publicity/Public Relation**

Larry Smith reports he has created a number of videos and Sharon has placed many of them on the ADS website. He is willing to create more and invites anyone to contact him with any ideas. Please be specific as to what you are looking for and allow adequate time for completion.

A couple of clubs have reached out to Larry to ask for help with ideas for publicizing their shows and events. Unfortunately, they waited until a few weeks prior to their shows. For most print and television media outlets, that doesn't meet their timelines to

get it done. Larry is willing to help any ADS affiliated club but do remind them to start early. A good rule is to approach the media at least three months prior to your event.

Extensive publicity will soon begin to promote the 2023 ADS Show in Portland, Oregon. Larry will be working with Sharon on ADS website promos and with Anna Kandra to put information out on social media, as well as local media outlets. The goal is to get coverage in advance of the show from all four local TV stations, all local print media, as well as social media and other grassroots options.

If anyone has other thoughts of how to promote the ADS or the dahlia in general, please contact Larry with your ideas.

## **Research and Education**

### **GENOME SEQUENCING**

Kristine Albrecht reports Zach Meharg recently started his 2nd year of PhD in the Harkess Lab at HudsonAlpha and Auburn University. Zach is currently working on two major projects in Dahlia. These include 1) the Dahlia genome project, and 2) a phylogenetic investigation of the origins of the modern octoploid Dahlia. The genome project is progressing quickly. After receiving cuttings from Edna C and allowing them to grow, Zach has collected tissue from them and has extracted High Molecular Weight DNA that will be used to create the chromosome scale genome. DNA from Edna C is currently at the HudsonAlpha Genome Sequencing Center, where we will soon generate the raw data needed to assemble this complex dahlia genome. Second, Zach has collected tissue from 76 herbarium samples covering tissue from 37 species of Dahlia. He is currently working on extracting DNA from all these samples that will be used to create a phylogeny for the dahlia genus. He also included for the board, pictures of the Edna C and species dahlias growing in the greenhouse and some of the tissues from Edna C for DNA extracts.

### **Seedling Bench Evaluation**

Roger Walker reports the application process to hold an ADS bench evaluation competition at local dahlia shows was done electronically for the first time in 2022. In June, information and a link to an online form was sent to each club president as well as each ADS club rep. Most clubs responded, materials were distributed as requested.

Bench evaluation materials are starting to be returned for tabulation. Thus far every local society has used the 2022 revised ADS scorecard as required.

Results will be collated with trial garden information to ensure each new introduction is correctly classified. Final results are anticipated to be posted on the ADS website in late October and will also be published in the January *Bulletin*.

### **Social Media**

Anna Kandra reports the current stats:

Current stats:

Facebook followers: 4,900

Facebook group members: 7,215

Instagram followers: 7,560

## **Special Awards**

Special Awards first wants to thank the American Dahlia Society, which includes its membership and member societies for their continued support of the various awards programs of the Society. It has been said that volunteers are priceless, and that no amount of compensation can be given to those who freely give of their talents and time. The one thing we can do, however, is give recognition. That is the role of ADS Special Awards. At the 2022 ADS National Show, several “valuable” volunteers were honored. In addition, a new ADS award was presented. Please read below for more about this award.

Ronald E. “Ron” Miner was accorded the **ADS Presidential Life Membership Award**. This award, which is given very infrequently, is bestowed upon those individuals who have provided exceptional dedication to the programs and purposes of the Society. Ron is such a person. Serving on the ADS Executive Board for many years and continuing today as a trustee, Ron’s tenure has had a profound influence on the operation of the ADS. Congratulations to Ron Miner.

Sharon Swaney was presented with the **ADS Gold Medal**. As the ADS moved further into the cyber age, it was Sharon who provided the society with the skills to meet the ever-changing challenges of electronic media. For several years, she has been presenting the ADS to the world through our website and other forms of electronic media. Sharon, always willing to take on the next big project, and is the point of reference when we want to reach the increasingly larger audience of dahlia lovers. From all in the ADS, we congratulate Sharon Swaney as our latest ADS Gold Medal recipient.

**The 2022 ADS President’s Award** was presented to Nick and Roseanne Weber by President Brad Freeman. This annual award is most often given to local society members who have been identified as key contributors, though it should be mentioned that Nick also served on the Board of the ADS. Congratulations to Nick and Rosanne on receiving the President’s Award in 2022.

### **In 2022, seven ADS Silver Medals were presented.**

At the 2022 Midwest Conference Show in Shipshewana, Indiana, four local society members of the Elkhart Dahlia Society were presented Silver Medals. Steve Kuiper, Camille Waggoner and Rusty and Anita Ritchie were recipients. They are all advocates for the American Dahlia Society and have served well. Steve and his daughter Cammi have spent considerable time in the ADS Bonneyville Trial Garden under the auspices of ADS past president Mac Boyer. Rusty and Anita have worked tirelessly to promote the joy of growing dahlias. It was an honor to present Silver Medals to these fine ADS members.

At the ADS National Show, Silver Medals were presented to four individuals. We were pleased to honor our brethren in the National Dahlia Society of the United Kingdom. Silver Medals were conferred to Ms. June Nash, currently the General Secretary of the NDS and a longtime contributor to the operation of that society. A Silver Medal was also conferred to Ron and Brenda Thomas. The Thomas’ were identified as members who, through their organizational skills, have contributed to the success of the NDS National Shows for over ten years. Accepting the awards on behalf of the ADS for our dahlia friends in the UK was David Brown. We ask that Dave extend our most sincere congratulations to June, Ron, and Brenda.

Scott Aker received an ADS Silver Medal at the 2022 National Show. Scott is associated with the National Arboretum in Washington D.C. Scott gave of his time to be part of the 2022 ADS National Show. Congratulations to Scott. Scott Aker is regarded as a dahlia ambassador.

Warren Vigor. Warren has become a familiar face in the United States. He has visited the “states” several times and our summers have virtually become his winter home. Warren is the current president of the Dahlia Society of Australia, and he personifies the definition of a dahlia ambassador. Congratulations to Warren Vigor on being presented an ADS Silver Medal.

**ADS Gold Commemorative Medals** were presented to six local National Capital Dahlia Society members in recognition of the special efforts they made in planning and as hosts of the 2022 ADS National Show. These are the “worker bees” who do all necessary things to make the “show go” and to make it an enjoyable experience for all in attendance. Medals and certificates were presented to:

Hannah Fisher

Rich Gibson

Kathleen Hoxie

Cliff Johnson

Nancy Mossburg

John Spangenberg

Thank you from the ADS for doing all things you did to make the 2022 National Show a success.

The ADS has initiated a new award for 2022. This award is called the ADS “**Clean Stock Offense**” **Award**. This award focuses on the multi-faceted ADS-sponsored program that intends to minimize the detrimental effects of viral diseases in our dahlia gardens. There have been several champions to surface during this effort and the ADS has decided they should be recognized. The duration of this award has not been determined as we believe finding eligible recipients is something that will take its own course. The current thinking is to present this award more than once per annum. For 2022, the “Clean Stock Offense” award was presented at ADS National Show to:

Jim Chuey

Ron Miner

Hanu Pappu

Tony Evangelista

Congratulations on being the first recipients of this award. These gentlemen are proven leaders in improving the health of our dahlia gardens.

Jerry Landerholm also wanted to acknowledge Parrot Press’s service to the ADS starting in 1993. They did an excellent job for the ADS for 28+ years.

## **Trustees**

Harry Risetto reports the financial communications from the treasurer reflects the ADS's cash position is more than sufficient to meet its current and anticipated debts through 2023.

The restricted funds are in good order; their value go up and down with the market.

An audit of the ADS finances is being arranged and will be completed shortly.

## **Website**

Sharon Swaney reports in addition to the seasonal updates and ADS Store updates, she has implemented online membership to match the new membership products.

Work continues on gathering information and planning for the Online Show Report which will replace the supplement previously published in December. Thanks, Donna Lane for her report editing efforts. It is too early to judge the participation in the new reporting facility since most societies are just now having their shows. We encourage all societies to submit reports and photos for the Online Show Report. We look forward to having some pictures in this year's report.

A major milestone was reached with the acquisition of a Cyber Insurance Policy. Thanks, Mel Epstein for all your hard work.

## **ANNUAL BUSINESS**

The board has approved the bylaws revisions, as published on the website. The board has approved the dues structure. We moved the membership year to be May 1 to April 30.

**Karen Sanchez moved, and Bob Schroeder seconded to endorse the actions of the executive board, including the bylaw revisions and the new membership dues structure. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **Honorarium**

**Jerry Landerholm moved, and Mel Epstein seconded to approve the honorarium for the secretary and treasurer in the amount of \$250.00 each with the amount for the treasurer coming out of the Boeke funds. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **Election of Officers**

Charles Miehme reports he received a sufficient number of votes to elect the slate of officers as posted. The slate of officers is:

President	Brad Freeman
First Vice President	Mark Oldenkamp
Second Vice President	Tony Evangelista
Third Vice President	Ken Jensen
General Secretary	Terry Schroeder
Treasurer	Charles Miehme
Trustee until 2026	Harry Risetto
Trustee until 2028*	Jerry Landerholm

\*Note: ADS Trustee Ron Miner serves to 2024.

There was some chat that members wanted to have included in the minutes.

Michael Parrish stated the Canadians appreciate all the efforts of the ADS leadership! More than likely most of us will stay with paper copies of the publications but will be interesting to see.

Marguerite Casey stated the Canadians do appreciate all the efforts of the ADS, but she respectfully disagrees with Michael and some will embrace the digital version.

Paula G, SE Michigan stated she saw a picture of the cut flower display. She hopes that the ADS or Jess Becker will consider sending out a PDF of the three panels.

Harry Risetto thanked Norm and David Hines for their long service to the ADS and its publications for over 25 years.

Ellen Muir stated that it would be helpful if someone could be on a computer, monitoring the online chat to get answers and to let everyone know the comments being made.

**Alan Fisher moved, and Gordon Jackman moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 am, EDT.**

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder

ADS General Secretary