

**American Dahlia Society
Minutes – Board Meeting
November 10, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm PDT by President Mark Oldenkamp.

Present

Board members present were Mark Oldenkamp, Alli Richards, Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook, Terry Schroeder, Charles Miehm, Harry Risetto, Jerry Landerholm, Robert Fackovec, Jeff Miner, Lori Goehring, Steve Lamb, Brad Freeman, Dan Baulig, Karen Sanchez, Pat Looney, Alan Fisher, Heather Ramsey, Mel Epstein, Bob Schroeder, Elva Sellens, Debbie Pavich, Larry Smith, Ron Miner, Roger Walker, Sharon Swaney

Remembrances

Mark Oldenkamp asked for a moment of reflection for persons who have recently passed or are having health issues. Gordon Jackman, Portland Dahlia Society, Helen Pickett, North Central Washington Dahlia Society, and Greg Smith, Inland Empire Dahlia Society all recently passed away. We had a moment of silence to remember these and

Minutes

Minutes from the June 7 & 9, 2024, meeting were sent to board members. **Linda Holmes-Cook moved, and Bob Schroeder seconded to approve as written. The motion carried.**

Executive Committee

The executive committee met on October 20. Those minutes were sent to board members to inform the board about the executive committee discussions. Items will be reviewed at this board meeting.

OFFICERS REPORTS

President

Mark Oldenkamp discussed email addresses for the board and that we would like to have all board members use their dahlia.org email address but that has been problematic as not everyone has it set up. Hopefully, we can accomplish that soon.

Mark appreciates the support of the team and looks forward to facilitating the good work the American Dahlia Society has recorded in recent years. We are a team of diverse leaders with varied experiences and skills.

The strategic plan is our road map, thanks for the input and work that made this happen. A top priority is the updating of our membership system. The recently appointed task force is busy looking at options. The classification database is being transitioned to a more modern platform.

We will continue to look for candidates to fill the open roles in our leadership team. Mark looks forward to working with everyone.

Treasurer

Charles Miehm reported he needs all expenses for 2024 that need to be reimbursed, must be sent to him by December 1st. Please cash the check upon receipt, so that all checks clear in 2024. We are doing well; the operating net surplus is \$36,708.91. We had discussed in a prior executive committee meeting that due to a good balance in our operating account to move some money into a money market account. Charles moved \$25,000.00 into the Columbia Government Money Market Fund through Ameriprise. At the end of the month, it was paying 5.14% but is dependent on the federal funds rate. It is available if we find we need that money. It left a balance in the checking account to cover expected expenses through the end of the year. We should start receiving membership dues after the first of the year. The national show endowment balance as of 10/31/24 was \$31,939.99. The initial goal of that fund is \$150,000. It was suggested to encourage local societies to donate in future years as well. It is important to have the finance committee remember the purpose of the other memorial funds that we look at what they are to be used for and to use them as something comes up.

Let Charles know if you have any questions.

Alan Fisher moved, and Brad Freeman seconded to approve the treasurer's report subject to review. The motion passed.

Balance Sheet – October 31, 2024

Unrestricted Funds

Ameriprise Investment Account	\$ 31,244.53
Vanguard Investment Account	\$ 41,899.07
Wells Fargo Bank - checking - operating	\$ 67,819.07
Total Unrestricted Funds	\$ 140,962.67

Restricted Funds

Ameriprise Investment Account - Boeke Bequest	\$ 49,006.79
Wells Fargo Bank - checking account - Virus Fund	\$ 7,675.84
Wells Fargo Bank - checking account – 2025, 2026, 2027 National Show	\$ 425.00
Wells Fargo Bank – checking account – Tony Evangelista Memorial Fund	\$ 5,425.00
Wells Fargo Bank – checking account – Memorial Fund	\$ 450.00
Wells Fargo Bank – savings account National Show Endowment	\$ 31,939.99
Wells Fargo Bank - savings account - Genome Project	\$ 75,018.74

Total Restricted Funds	\$ 169,941.36
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Total ADS Funds	\$ 310,904.03
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First Vice President

Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook reports she attended her first executive committee meeting as first vice president on October 20 where we had the opportunity to discuss the possibility of an editorial board and publications committee for the *Bulletin*. She looks forward to being a part of this group and helping to carry on the plans and goals of the ADS.

Second Vice President

Alli Richards reports she is ready to take on her role as second vice-president.

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

North Atlantic Conference

Robert Fackovec reports all of our member societies had successful shows and have now turned to getting their stock ready for winter storage. It is a task that most dahlia growers try to put off as the blooms are usually still so nice. Our mild temperatures this fall have really extended our blooms.

We had some nice entries in the Eastern Trial Garden this year. I encourage all growers to submit entries to this great garden maintained by the Mid Island Dahlia Society. Stay safe and well.

Robert has an idea to have the ADS sponsor a grant to support smaller societies. Details would need to be worked out and Robert was asked to work on a proposal to send to Mark to be then sent to the finance and executive committees to be recommended to the board at a future meeting.

Midwest Dahlia Conference

Jeff Miner reports the Midwest Dahlia Conference had great shows with many new exhibitors this year. They are looking at two national shows in their area in the next two years.

Southern States

Lori Goehring reports North Carolina is recovering from the hurricane; they got hit extremely hard. Linda Holmes-Cook states the December *Bulletin* has a call out to people to contribute tubers to the Carolinas.

Mid-Atlantic Conference

Dave Smith reports the members of The Mid-Atlantic Conference of the American Dahlia Society, Gettysburg Dahlia Society, National Capital Dahlia Society, and The Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society each hosted ADS Shows: Members from all Mid-Atlantic societies participate in the shows hosted by each society.

On August 18, National Capital Dahlia Society held its Mid-Summer Show at Montgomery County Agricultural Park, Derwood, MD. This show refreshes memories and introduces new members to the art of showing dahlias. On August 24, NCDS held a show at Maryland State Fair, Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, MD. On September 27-29, the National Capital Dahlia Annual Show was held at Brookside Gardens, Silver Spring, MD.

On September 6-8 Greater Philadelphia held its 75th anniversary show and annual Mid-Atlantic Show at Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA.

On September 12-14, Gettysburg Dahlia Show was held in Biglerville, PA.

GPDS held a picnic meeting-August 24, 2024. President Dana Miller offered the group's thanks to Marla and John Edwards for hosting the gathering. Business was followed by a judging seminar, and then lunch. Their 2025 annual show will be September 19-21.

National Capital Dahlia Society held a summer potluck picnic at the home and gardens of Ellen Ash in Great Falls, VA on August 4, 2024. On September 11 they held their monthly meeting with demonstrations on staging and showing at upcoming shows. On October 9, NCDS held its awards dinner and monthly meeting where ribbons and prizes from the annual show are presented. On November 13, they will have their monthly meeting with demonstrations on tuber dividing and storage. On December 4, they will have their annual holiday party.

Pacific Southwest Conference

John Morton reports all is quiet in the Pacific Southwest. Most of the noise is from the shovels and knives digging and splitting dahlia clumps.

The Central Coast Dahlia society is preparing to be the conference host for the rest of the California clubs for their conference that will be held in February 2025.

A Dahlia 101 class was held at a local nursery with about 40 people attending. Several of the group joined or said they will join the dahlia society at our next meeting.

Pacific Northwest Conference

Steve Lamb reports the Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference elected their board officers for 2025-2026. Elected were:

President-Julie Moore-Portland Dahlia Society
Vice President- Bob Chibante- Wild Rivers Dahlia Society
Secretary-Marguerite Casey Wolnicki- Victoria Dahlia Society
Treasurer-Dan Baulig-Portland Dahlia Society.
Appointed positions accepted were:
Judging Chair-Elva Sellens- Douglas County Dahlia Society
ADS Regional PNW VP-Steve Lamb-Portland Dahlia Society

Current PNDC President Larry Smith congratulated Elva Sellens for 20 years of service as PNDC Treasurer and thanked her for assuming the responsibilities of PNDC ADS Judging Chair.

The PNDC Gold Medal for Lifetime Achievement 2024 was given to Ember Nay for all she has done for the PNDC over many years.

Having completed a successful show season, the Pacific Northwest Dahlia Conference is now evaluating our recent innovations in order to continue to improve our shows and simplify the processes.

Their combined two-year show schedule, 2023-2024, contained information from all our member societies. The publication contained each society's exhibition schedule, PNDC show procedures, member exhibitor numbers. It was well received and used for the last two years. It is now time to produce the next schedule incorporating improvements for the next two years. Discussions are ongoing concerning how to keep the most up to date information in the second-year issue current. Issuing a supplement for the second year with any changes needed will most likely be the solution.

The new show scoring and documentation forms were used in all conference shows and were largely successful in achieving the accuracy, simplicity, and shortening the judge times. As in all innovations, learning to use the system and making changes on the forms for next season will make the systems easier to use.

A video presentation produced by Larry Smith of the Canby Trial Garden high scoring varieties is now available to see on both the ADS and Portland Dahlia Society websites.

The PNDC is heartbroken to announce the passing of Gordon Jackman, 09/03/1951 to 10/14/2024. Michael Riordan said, "So saddened to hear of Gordon's passing. He loved dahlias and dahlia people. Gordon never stopped learning. His knowledge of dahlia varieties was encyclopedic. Thank you, Gordon, for brightening our lives."

The PNDC is working with the Victoria Dahlia Society to have their 70th anniversary and PNDC conference show in Victoria this year. They are looking forward to including everyone and rejuvenating the PNDC. That show will be August 16 & 17.

Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers

Alli Richards reports they survived the national show in September and are looking forward to attending the 2025 national show. There are no plans but it is likely they will plan another national show down the road but are not ready to commit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADS Store

Dan Baulig reports since the first of the year shipments from the store are as follows:

Color Guides - **61**, 2023 CHD - **33**, 2023 CHD Large 3-hole - **3**, 2024 CHD - **316**, 2024 Large 3 Hole CHD - **44**, Spiral Composite - **39**, 76-2022 3-hole Composite - **9**, Guide to Judging Dahlias - **94**, 2nd 50 Years - **4**, Show Tag Rings - **2**.

October 2022 Bulletin - **0**, January 2023 Bulletin - **1**, June 2023 Bulletin - **4**, December 2023 Bulletin - **6**, April 2024 Bulletin - **11**, August 2024 Bulletin - **7**

Total Shipments from the ADS Store: 634 through October 2024

Excess inventory of the following Bulletins that societies can request to use to give out to new or prospective members. Let Dan know if your society wants some.

October 2022
June 2023

December 2023
April 2024

Classification

Karen Sanchez reports the classification committee has decided to recommend micro dahlias be included on a permanent basis to the CHD.

Karen Sanchez moved and Robert Fackovec seconded that the ADS Classification committee recommends the micro dahlias recently included in the CHD on a trial basis, to full inclusion into the CHD. Societies may structure their show schedules to incorporate the micros as regionally appropriate to their exhibition needs and preferences. At least one section dedicated to fully double micros and one section to open center dahlias should be included. The motion passed.

It was noted that some societies have included the micros in their shows for several years, even offering top honors for the best micro single bloom and best micro triple exhibit. Other societies have grouped micros with higher numbers of varieties together breaking out just those classes with many varieties (i.e., MPE and MCO). Others still have offered just one combined micro class. Hence the wording to offer societies the latitude to include the micros as regionally appropriate. There was discussion about ensuring that all national shows include micros. It was noted that we should look at the wording in the policy manual regarding national shows and ensure that would include micro sections.

There was some discussion over whether to change the name of mignon singles to micro singles. No decision or recommendation was officially made. We could also single out pompons as micro balls. I am of the opinion that the naming conventions can be grandfathered in. If in the future, the dahlia populace wants to revisit the naming convention that can be done at that time. No changes to size or form descriptions was discussed.

Show reports for the 2024 show season have mostly been returned. All societies that sent in a report have received an email confirmation. If you believe you sent a report in that was not confirmed please email Karen Sanchez asap. RnKSanchez@comcast.net

About half of the committee members have returned their reclassification sheets for the 2024 season. A reminder email was sent out.

Karen is still awaiting trial garden results and at least one society's show report.

Karen thanked all the show reporters for their efforts in completing the show reporting documentation.

Karen is migrating the database for the CHD to a SEQUEL database as Access database they have used for many years is no longer supported.

Cut Flower

Mark Oldenkamp stated the cut flower committee has been somewhat inactive due to some health issues of the chair, Jess. She is hoping to be able to chair this committee again soon.

Editor

Linda DeRooy Holmes-Cook reports the December 2024 issue of the *Bulletin* is in its final stages, and we expect to hand it off to Consolidated Press for printing, sorting and distribution soon. The 57th ADS National Show, ADS Special Awards, SBE, and Trial Garden medal winners are featured. This is her last issue as editor. She has been including Pat Looney, our new editor, in the process as she has gone through all the phases with this issue, answering her questions as they go along. Linda is pleased to pass everything off to her in 2025, and at the same time stands ready to support her as she takes on the primary responsibilities of getting the April *Bulletin* together. They have discussed the possibility of an editorial board and possibly a publications committee in the near future. It is important that they have input on a broader basis when it comes to determining *Bulletin* policies and content, and there are a number of people who would be well suited to become a member of this group. Linda will follow up on this, as first vice-president, as we move through the process. Club reports will be online as well as in the *Bulletin*, starting with the December issue. There will be a template developed for club reports for the *Bulletin*.

Pat Looney, a member of the Southwest Idaho Dahlia Society, was introduced to the board as the new *Bulletin* editor. Pat has a background in education as an English teacher, and experience publishing the yearbook and school newspaper. She has shadowed Linda with the August and December *Bulletins* and is now ready to have Linda follow her in publishing the April *Bulletin*. At the beginning of the year, Pat will take over the adsbulletin@dahlia.org.

The advertising position has been open for a long time. In 2025, it's felt that we should put some effort into finding someone for that position.

Finance

Harry Risetto reports there have been no financial surprises since the annual meeting.

The national show endowment effort is proceeding slowly. A new poster is being distributed. All board members are encouraged to make a donation to this fund.

Garden Dahlias

Alan Fisher reports there has been a problem with not knowing how to define garden dahlias. After discussion at the spring planning meeting, was felt the focus on attracting people new to growing dahlias, which would include education of newer growers. Alan would like to rename the committee to encompass that focus. Alan is looking for a new co-chair or small committee. He would like someone who would be able to go through the ADS website and move or link information that would fit within the educational needs of newer growers. Mark will see about getting a recommendation on a new name and purpose/goal of that committee. It was felt we need to include container dahlias as well and we need to have someone on the committee with knowledge in that area.

Image Library

Heather Ramsay reports the image library has received the results of the seedling bench evaluation and is eagerly awaiting the trial garden report. She is actively collecting any photos from the 2024 growing season, but especially those from the trial

gardens and seedling bench evaluations. Any photos of dahlia people or events would also be appreciated.

Insurance

Mel Epstein reports the insurance program will soon be approaching the renewal process for the 2025 season. The expectation is for an increase in all premiums which will hopefully be incremental and not require any major adjustments at our end. Our most important policy is the club general liability policy which expires on 3/15/25. The renewal application will be submitted in January 2025. Because this coverage involves property damage, it needs to be watched the most closely.

The officers and directors policy is set to expire on February 1. According to the Carolina Insurance Company, there is only expected to be a minimal increase in the premium. The club liability policy set to expire on March 15 is likely to have an increase. The good news is that there is no indication that Philadelphia will not write that policy again this coming year.

Judging Accreditation

Bob Schroeder reports the visits by ADS members to the judging training modules on the ADS website have been active during this past dahlia season. The Mod Squad will make any necessary updates to the modules after the first of the year. If committee chairs see information that needs to be updated in the modules, please let Bob know. Judges are encouraged to use the modules as a review on a regular basis.

He anticipates another year with a significant number of new and advancing judges for the 2025 update to the ADS judging program. After the first of the year, he will be reaching out to the judging chairs for their updates.

The testing committee is still active. At the current time both the candidate and accredited tests are online. The committee is working on finishing the senior test and have it completed before the 2025 show season.

The Mod Squad is also working on completing modules on judging in the trial garden, on the seedling bench and in a private garden for those societies who are not close to a trial garden.

Membership

Elva Sellens reports with the dahlia shows in September, we had 65 new memberships – 46 individual memberships and 19 household memberships (x 2 = 38) for a total of 84 new members. Sixty-four of these memberships were members of a local dahlia society and the other 19 joined on our website. The month of October has been a little slower; we had 43 new memberships – 36 individual members and 7 household memberships (x 2 = 14) for a total of 50 new members. This month was different where 23 of the memberships were non-society members and 20 memberships were society members. Some of the new online memberships show that they joined because of our Facebook Page. Thanks goes to the Facebook crew in doing a great job.

U.S. Memberships

We have 57 participating societies and 3 affiliated societies. There are 2,468 memberships – 1,924 individual memberships and 543 household memberships (x 2 =

1,086) for a total of 3,010 members. For the 2024 membership year, we have 785 new memberships so far – 653 individual memberships and 132 household memberships (x2 = 264) for a total of 917 new members.

Canadian Memberships

In Canada, we have 8 participating societies and 1 affiliated society. There are 155 memberships – 125 individual and 30 household members (x 2 = 60) for a total of 185 members. Of these memberships, there are 105 print memberships and 50 digital memberships.

Overseas Memberships

There are 14 overseas memberships. In September, two new members from Australia joined.

National Exhibition

The ADS board has approved national shows for the following years: 2025 hosted by the Central States Dahlia Society, 2026 hosted by the West Michigan Dahlia Society, and 2027 hosted by the Rochester Dahlia Society. Two clubs are currently considering hosting events in 2028 and 2029. Additionally, one club has requested to reserve 2034 to celebrate their society's 125th anniversary. Clubs are encouraged to host national shows in the coming years. Currently there is \$3,500 available for societies who host a national show.

Photography

Debbie Pavich reports entries are coming in on a daily basis. The deadline is December 15th. Please check the ADS website for more information. The Photo Contest keeps our membership engaged during the winter months. A huge thank you to Sharon for her help with the website and mass email messages.

Publicity/Public Relations

Larry Smith reports he created a short PSA video for advance promotion of the 2024 ADS National Show in Wenatchee to share on social media. He has been in contact with organizers of the 2025 National regarding promotions for that show and is awaiting marching orders from that committee.

Board members were recently sent the link to a video he completed, highlighting the passing entries in the 2024 Canby Trial Garden and featuring brief information about the judging process. The link was uploaded to the ADS YouTube channel and can be shared with anyone who might be interested. There are few people viewing the videos on our YouTube channel; perhaps it could be promoted on the ADS website and on our social media sites.

ADS *Bulletin* editor Pat Looney contacted Larry with questions about what type of articles may be of interest to readers going forward. This would be a good subject to address with the full ADS Board to seek additional ideas, at the November meeting with follow-up at the in-person board and planning session in the spring. More content of interest to the casual grower could be one direction that could attract additional interest in the ADS.

Pat and Larry are currently pursuing information for a *Bulletin* article regarding research being done at Oregon Health Sciences University, investigating possible healing properties found within dahlias. A recent news story shown on a Portland television station featured shots of Larry's garden that were taken when their reporter came to conduct interviews promoting the 2023 ADS National Show, hosted in Portland. You will find the link to that news story here: <https://youtu.be/2BuTxsWk6mw?feature=shared>

[Preview YouTube video Breakthrough discovery in dahlia flowers could help treat MS, cancer](#)

Larry put together two short videos regarding judging in a trial garden and on the bench. Here are the links: <https://youtu.be/7jC0sbaxols> and <https://youtu.be/Jomk4B66jMs>

Research and Education

Virus Project

Ron Miner reported it is not likely that we will have virus testing in 2025 due to the issues we had with the dahlia mosaic virus; the results are promising but not complete.

Genome Sequencing

Kristine Albrecht shared the following report from Dr. Alex Harkess. We are pleased to report significant progress across three major initiatives supported by the American Dahlia Society. Your generous funding has been instrumental in enabling our success, and we are excited to share these updates with you. Each project is advancing our understanding of dahlia genetics, phylogeny, and floral trait development, which will ultimately enhance breeding programs and the cultivation of these beautiful flowers.

1. **Genome Project:** The assembly of the dahlia genome is now complete, marking a major milestone in our research. We have successfully “locked” the chromosome structure, establishing a finalized genome assembly that will serve as a stable reference for future studies. Currently, Zach is sequencing RNA to annotate genes within this genome, allowing us to better understand gene functions and expression patterns. Intriguingly, our findings suggest that cultivated dahlias may be tetraploid, contrary to the longstanding belief that they are octoploid. This has potential implications for breeding and evolutionary studies, although further research, especially with additional genomes, may provide a more comprehensive view.

2. **Dahlia Phylogeny Project:** We have made excellent strides in our phylogenetic study, with nearly 200 individuals from across the Dahlia genus successfully sequenced through bait capture techniques. This ambitious effort, undertaken in collaboration with an international network of nearly 15 research partners, has yielded high-quality sequencing data. Preliminary phylogenetic trees are consistent with many previously hypothesized relationships between dahlia species, offering a robust foundation for understanding the evolutionary history of the genus. Zach is now conducting a more detailed analysis to trace the likely ancestral species of the cultivated dahlia, a discovery that could illuminate the origins of many of its beloved characteristics.

3. **Floral Gene Identification and Breeding Program:** With a focus on floral traits, Zach has submitted a proposal for a USDA NIFA predoctoral fellowship that, if awarded, would support his research and training through the remainder of his PhD. This project centers on identifying genes responsible for dahlia floral traits through two main

approaches: a genome-wide association study (GWAS) on specimens collected from national dahlia shows and a comprehensive transcriptome analysis across major floral forms. If successful, these efforts will lay the groundwork for a molecular-assisted breeding program, ultimately enabling breeders to select for desired floral traits with greater precision and efficiency.

Dr. Harkess states they are grateful for the American Dahlia Society's support, which has been invaluable to their progress. These projects are setting a strong foundation for future dahlia research and cultivation improvements, and we look forward to continuing this momentum in the coming quarters. Thank you for your continued partnership in advancing dahlia science and horticulture.

Seedling Bench Evaluation

Roger Walker reports the seedling bench report has been finalized and submitted to the webmaster for posting. There were five Lynn B. Dudley medal winners and a Gullikson medal winner. In an unprecedented show of strength, four of the Dudley medals were won by a single hybridizer. Roger has reconciled the seedling bench reports with the trial garden chair.

In addition to the online post, results, and photos (if available) will be reported in the December issue of the *ADS Bulletin*.

Special Awards

Jerry Landerholm reports at the successful 2024 ADS National Show, special awards was honored to participate in giving recognition to the deserving people who received various ADS awards. Once again, congratulations to all who received an award.

The next order of business is to prepare this year's medal awards for the seedling bench and trial garden competitions. We also consider the important Stanley Johnson and Les Connell awards for 2024. Not all the information has been supplied in time for this report, but we know it will soon be available.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the ADS special awards program.

Trial Garden

The trial garden report has not been received yet. Karen Sanchez will connect with Marilyn to see when that will be available. This is Marilyn's last year as trial garden chair; Mark will be working on a recommendation he received to determine if that will be a good fit.

Website Coordinator

Sharon Swaney reports she is loading season end information as it becomes available. If you have information for the site she will be happy to process it.

Thanks, Roger, for all the Seedling Bench info. This starts the bloom awards information for 2024.

We have received pictures from a few trial gardens - thanks Schroeders, Linda Taylor, Deb Hatt, Cami Waggoner. The pictures are processed and ready to go when the trial garden information is finalized.

The awards information for awards presented in Wenatchee, are posted. She needs a few more pictures of the show to add to the website.

Many reports for the *Year End Online Show Report* (replaces the *December Supplement* of yore) have been submitted and she expects the report to be posted approximately December 1.

OLD BUSINESS

Audio Visual Equipment

Mark Oldenkamp reported the board authorized us to purchase audio-visual equipment, an OWL camera, projector, and computer. We need to determine who would be the keeper of the equipment. These are typically needed for the spring planning meeting and annual meeting. The board authorized up to \$5,000 for this equipment. The equipment will be in secure cases for shipping or transporting. We need to let the New Mexico society know what equipment will be available from the ADS.

Advertising Manager for the Bulletin

Strategic Plan Update

Mark Oldenkamp reported the task force in response to the strategic plan initiative to find a new system to manage memberships for our growing the ADS has begun their work.

The club reports will be put on the website starting in December. The reports will be on the regular portion of the website so that non-members will be able to see those reports and possibly be encouraged to join a local society.

2025 Spring Board and Planning Meeting

The dates for the spring planning meeting are March 28 through March 30 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Board members are encouraged to participate in person if possible. Friday night is the introductory piece and start of the board meeting. Saturday is the planning meeting with participation from the local society encouraged. Sunday morning is the wrap-up of the board meeting. There is typically an ice cream social on Sunday afternoon. We should have the information on the hotel soon as they are ready to sign the paperwork with the hotel. For 2026, the plan is to have the spring planning meeting in the southern states, likely North Carolina.

NEW BUSINESS

Updated Email Addresses for board members

Mark Oldenkamp states we will loop back on this item, but the board contact list is available on the shared drive on Google. Take a look at the board contact list and make sure your information is accurate. Sharon stated we can also have a training on how to use your email and to look at the shared drive. We probably need a couple of dates to provide this training. To access the shared drive, you need to be in your dahlia.org email address.

Organizational Chart Update

Mark shared the organizational chart. If you have thoughts as to where it may not be accurate, let Mark know. The chart without names will be posted on the ADS website.

Meeting Schedule for 2025

Mark sent the proposed meeting schedule for 2025 to the board. There is a conflict with the August date for the executive committee to meet prior to the annual meeting. It was suggested to perhaps meet on a weeknight instead of Sunday. We will look at that with a meeting at 5:00 pm Pacific time. It was brought up that the July board meeting is on the July 4th weekend, so it was suggested to move that to the following week.

Genome Project Next Steps

Mark reported Dr. Harkess and Zach presented an update on the genome project at the national show in Wenatchee. The basic message is they are making good progress on understanding the genome of the dahlia. They have already gone to the next step on 200 of the dahlias they took samples from a few years ago and it is progressing well. As to the next steps, there are two more years left of Zach's fully funded graduate PhD program. One idea that was floated is to start thinking about a post-doctoral program which requires a significant amount of funding. The other piece is whether the intellectual property of what we have funded and are continuing to fund has any economic value. It would be helpful to determine if someone thinks that we have something of value but to be sure we are doing that in an appropriate manner. It was felt that at this point, we aren't in a position to do another large fund-raising campaign since we are already in the midst of fundraising for the National Show Endowment fund. Mark will work with the executive committee on how to proceed with the next steps.

The next meeting will be in New Mexico on March 28 through March 30.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm PST.

Respectively Submitted,

Terry Schroeder, ADS Secretary