Southern States Annual Meeting
Saturday, October 3, 2015
The meeting was called to order by Ed Whitfield, AL/SS President at 12:34 pm at the Vestavia Hills Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL.

In attendance

Dahlia Societies of Alabama, Georgia, Carolinas, Tennessee each had at least 2 members in attendance, as follows:
Ed & Kathy Whitfield, Lucy Calvert, Jeff Pace for Alabama; John Kreiner, Dan & Paula Pinholster, Lori & Bob Goehring, Madison Varsalona for Georgia; Buddy Dean, Allen & Debra Haas for Carolinas; Ray Phillips for Tennessee.

Minutes were taken by Debra Haas for Linda Killingsworth, CDS Secretary.

Approval of Minutes
Minutes from the March 2015 meeting in Chattanooga were distributed and accepted as presented without a formal motion.

No Finance Report was presented.
No Board Report was presented.

No Report was presented from the American Dahlia Society’s Annual General Meeting, held in Long Island, NY on 9/17/2016.

Discussions on the floor:

• A question was raised about whether the Pom & Mini sections for multiples of 12 should be reviewed or changed to “Baskets”. A short discussion indicated there was no reason to change, per the rules.

**ACTION:** None required.

• KWhitfield raised an issue about the use of exhibitor numbers only. She would like to have either numbers & names required on exhibit tags or at least post the list of numbers & names for reference. 

_AHaas relayed, for info purposes only, that the 2015 National Dahlia Show hosts didn’t open exhibit tags due to privacy concerns. Consensus here: that with only 2 Southern States shows in 2016 (the National Show in September and the Georgia Fair show in October), member societies should poll their members & make a decision for 2017.

**ACTION:** Member Societies will poll their members if we want to require information in addition to Exhibitor Number on exhibit tags and if so, what information or do we want to simply display the Exhibitor Number/Name list. This will then become Rule for the 2017 shows.

• As part of this discussion CDS reported that the 2016 Registration packet will include a sheet of adhesive labels for exhibitors with preprinted exhibitor number, last name & state. **BDean moved & DPinholster seconded:** for 2016, SS members will keep & use their currently assigned numbers 1-99 and guests for 2016 National Show will be assigned 101+. Vote was unanimously in favor.
**ACTION:** None for Southern States. **For the National Show Only:** Exhibitor numbers 101 and above will be assigned to guests from other societies; local members, if not assigned a number currently, will be assigned remaining numbers 100 and below (approximately 25 available.)

**TASKED:** 2016 National Show Registration Committee.

- EWhitcomb asked local societies to remind Exhibitors that the ADS Classification Committee publishes changes annually after show reporting is completed by local societies. These changes MUST be followed for bloom entries in shows the following year. A list of the current changes are in the front of the Annual Classification Guide and those changes are incorporated into the tables. Exhibitors cannot rely upon their memory or personal lists (or the Composite Classification Guide in some cases) for class numbers for a show - the classification per the ADS classification guide is rule. Everyone needs to establish a procedure to make sure they verify the Classification numbers they are using in any show. Societies should also warn their members that the Northwest growers have deviations from the Classification Guide for their shows only and those deviations are printed in the back of the Guide.

2016 National Show Progress Report:

1. All Committees and Volunteers should be reminded that BDean is CDS President and Show Chairman for the 2016 National Show. With that said, he (and Susan Linn, Show vice Chair) have full responsibility over anything to do with the actual staging & operation of the Show. Ahaas (and Tommy Spain & Lori Goehring, Event Co-Chairs) have full responsibility for the staging & operation of the Events not involving the horticultural exhibition. BDean, though, as Show Chairman and Board Member has the final say over both Show and Event areas. SubCommittees should report their activities and actions appropriately.

2. Meetings have been held in July 2014, January 2015, March 2015 (at the Southern States meeting), and July 2015. The September 2015 meeting has been postponed to the October business meeting on 10/17/2015. Beginning December 2015, meetings are to be held monthly.

3. SubCommittees have been asked to submit Status Report prior to each meeting. A blank copy of the Status Report Form is included in these minutes.

4. At this meeting, the following changes to the Southern States Rules and Rule Book/Show Schedule were discussed:
   a. BGoehring: RE the wording of the rule about leaves will be changed to read “1 set of leaves is required.” (Rule #10.)
   b. BGoehring: RE ribbons for Artistic Arrangement need clarification. PPinholster will review and submit to BGoehring.
   c. BDean: RE non-standardized classification numbers for novice should be replaced by the same numbering system as AA-A-B in all other exhibitor sections. All other forms and sizes would go into Open competition. BDean moved; Lgoehring seconded. Passed unanimously. **ACTION:** BGoehring will include N-AA, N-A, N=B on the tables along with O-AA, X-AA, etc. The Novice Section will indicate the specific rules for Novice Exhibitors but there will be 15 classes for each size just as there are for Open and Amateur.

5. DHaas: RE Section OF and ADS requirements for National Exhibitions/Shows. The consensus is that our rules meet the ADS requirements but that we will have to have more table space allotted for those Forms.

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**ACTION:** BDean will handle this within the layout to be given the Crowne Plaza for the tables and with the SetUp Committee for the placement of signage.

6. RE Sweepstakes rules will be reviewed.

7. RE Exhibit Tag example is not required.

8. BDean: RE wording in one place is “Best Novice Bloom” and in another “Most Perfect Novice”. BGoehring will deconflict.

9. LKillingsworth: RE recently released Photo Rules promulgated by ADS.

**ACTION:** DHaas will deconflict and provide to BGoehring.

BDean indicated “we’re doing okay – we’re marking things off the checklist but we need a calendar of deadlines. We recently had one to reserve tour busses that we need to follow-up on.”

- AHaas reminded him that we have a multi-year, monthly calendar in place with deadlines and contract requirements. It was created shortly after we contracted with Crowne Plaza.
- DHaas informed the group that the Oct 2015 deadline can’t be correct because we can’t sign contracts for busses prior to registration for the tours.

**BDean is trying to get Mountain Faith, a Sylva NC based bluegrass/gospel band who appeared on this year’s America’s Got Talent, to perform at the Banquet.** $500 is already budgeted for entertainment.

**Based on CDS 2015 tear down, we can’t rely on sufficient personnel within CDS to be available for 2016 tear down.** AHaas asked if we could get a count from Southern States for how many will be on hand. Original discussions indicated that “TN would help with setup and AL with tear down”. Current discussions indicates that there will be no guarantees and that many society members want to attend the Sunday tour.

- **One alternative would be to pay for extra help;** BDean doesn’t want to waste money to have someone do tear down, based on Long Island’s recent experience with hired assistance.

- **Another recommendation,** for members who want to go on Sunday tour, is that tear down be set for 2 hours & extend the time for the Sunday Tour so people who tear down could still go to the cook-out. Tear down should only entail collecting ribbons & exhibit tags, clearing blooms for sales, clearing & packing vases, bundling tablecloths.

**BDean requested budgeting to hire a professional photographer to take bloom photos of head table with all awards, to take couples’ portraits at banquet and to create the slide show for the Awards program at the banquet.** No budget change is approved. Mvarsalona has a wedding photographer connection – she’ll follow up with BDean.

- These photos would fuel the Awards program slide show. BDean plans for Winning Exhibitor name to be called, winner stands in place for recognition & slide show of top blooms. Winner collects prizes later. Mvarsalona volunteers to design slide show & prepare slide show script for MC Kreiner. She will coordinate with all concerned areas.

**BDean proposes offering 50% of flower show sales to Girl Scouts for assistance.** (This decision is in the last meeting’s minutes as being IGarren’s responsibility.)

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Discussion about the table signage: BDean takes responsibility for altering and producing table signage with higher posts and new signs.

Staging: BDean would like all supplies in one area, manned by volunteers to prepare & hand over the table to exhibitors: filled vases; oasis; tops or no tops; etc. As opposed to the self-service CDS routinely does. As Show Chairman it is his decision to make. (BDean volunteers that he will be at Trial Garden on Friday & not available to oversee set-up & staging.)

BDean asked AHaas to ask Ann Maxwell to oversee photography section by determining space & materials requirements. AHaas said ask her yourself. Alternative Methods of display were discussed: “Clothesline”, Curtains (a la Snohomish), Room Dividers/Screens.

BDean has a scheme designed for judging hierarchy & teams. Teams will mark Exhibit tags but ribbons will be placed later & tags opened at that time.

All exhibitors will be required to submit any bloom not in current classification guide or composite to be classed by a senior judge prior to its placement on the exhibit tables. Appropriate ADS Forms must be used.

LGoehring has accepted responsibility for the Hospitality Room & its security.

TSpain has stepped up to take responsibility for food with MArrington's resignation. He’s waiting for an appointment with Crowne Plaza Catering.

AHaas & TSpain are sharing responsibility for Facility. This keeps the venue from confusion over who can authorize changes. This method was observed in Santa Clara in 2011: everyone affiliated with the Show knew who to ask for assistance & venue staff knew who got quick responses for changes.

(Committee stands down)

Next Meeting of Southern States:
DPinholster reminded that Southern States agreed to hold the Spring Meeting each year in Atlanta or Chattanooga with the choice made by the lead society for the year. In 2016 that will be Carolinas and this decision was tabled until BDean, CDS President returned to the meeting. The suggestion was made, and accepted by Carolinas Dahlia Society, that the March 2016 meeting be held at the Atlanta History Center. The Boeke Collection and the ADS Archives are now both housed at the Cherokee Garden Library and the Librarian will hopefully be attending & participating in the 2016 National Show. The date of March 19, 2016, was proposed and the vote was unanimously in favor.

ACTION: Make appropriate scheduling for March 19, 2016 midday for a visit to the Library, to view the archives & Boeke Collection, and to have luncheon at the restaurant there.

TASKED: DPinholster volunteered to make the arrangements.

Meeting Adjournment: DPinholster moved and JPace seconded. Vote is unanimous and meeting is adjourned at 2:14 pm.

Submitted by:
Debra Haas, Secretary pro tem
October 7, 2015