



*Submitted by Dr. Carol Ambrozy
ATHA President
Athol, MA*
Greeting ATHA Members

We have an exciting ATHA Newsletter for you! It is election time and we have the complete ATHA Election Ballot for the 2007-2009 term of office for the Executive Board, including Regional Representatives.

Please find your official ballot on the inside of the front mailer jacket. Directions for voting are found on page 8. Biographical information on each of the candidates running for office is found on page 6. Please read this section carefully. You will appreciate the many years of service that our candidates have volunteered to ATHA. Each candidate has provided an overview of why they are running for a particular office on the ATHA Executive Board and the experiences that qualify them for that office. I think that you will agree that our 27 year old ATHA organization is indeed fortunate to have such dedicated members.

ATHA is the largest traditional rug hooking organization in the world. We are 3600+ members strong. ATHA is, and has been, run largely by volunteers. The only two paid positions are those of ATHA Membership Chairperson and Newsletter Editor. Our ATHA Budget is made up largely of newsletter costs. The majority of our income is from membership dues with a small portion from

newsletter ads. Being a non-profit 501c3 organization, your ATHA Board has worked diligently to maintain a frugal budget and affordable membership dues for all members.

What does an ATHA membership provide for our members?

- ATHA provides every ATHA member with six issues of the ATHA Newsletter per year, delivered to their home or snow-bird address.

- ATHA also maintains an expensive insurance policy, which provides liability protection to all ATHA members attending regularly scheduled local and regional meetings. Our Communications Director issues insurance certificates to ATHA Chapters for special events.

- Our Regional Coordinator is available throughout the year to Regional Representatives and Local Chapters to suggest policies and procedures and to answer any questions that may arise. How and why your hooking group should become an ATHA Chapter, and organizational ideas and materials are all part of ATHA's service to keep your group running smoothly. Diana O'Brien has also done an outstanding job in obtaining IRS non-profit status for every ATHA Chapter and all Regions in the US under the ATHA Organizational umbrella.

If your region or chapter is considering applying to host a future ATHA Biennial, your ATHA Vice-President is charged with the

task of working with the biennial committee to negotiate the hotel contract and, upon agreement of the ATHA Board, to sign that contract on behalf of ATHA. The duties of the Vice-President include working as an ATHA Board liaison to the biennial committee.

- Our extensive ATHA Library is available to all ATHA members and chapters. These resources make excellent programs for chapter meetings.

- Remember that ATHA maintains an important record of our 27-year old organization. Joanna Palmer, ATHA Historian, has reorganized and categorized these important historical documents using proper archival techniques.

In reviewing this April/May Issue, you will enjoy a number of educational offerings including the how-to of plaids, purses and creative hooking. Pay particular attention to the colored photos of those wonderful hooked automobile pieces and the accompanying articles. I am sure that we all have that special photo or memory of our favorite automobile just waiting to be hooked. Thanks folks, for reminding us of those wonderful carefree times past!

Our ATHA Rug Registry continues to document heirlooms of the past and future. Vice-President, Priscilla Sharp completed an ATHA Rug Registry with members of the Old Pueblo Rug Hookers at their Hook-In

on January 20, 2007 in Tucson, Arizona. We thank Priscilla and the Old Pueblo Rug Hookers for a job “well-done”! If your group is considering an ATHA Rug Registry meeting/program in the future, please contact me for details. Your ATHA Board will also conduct an ATHA Rug Registry during the biennial. More information will be forthcoming in the next issue of our newsletter

The Biennial Committee has several articles in this issue to inform and excite you, as you consider attending the 2007 ATHA Biennial in New Orleans. You will find information on classes, lectures, meetings, etc.

You will also find an article about the ATHA Mardi Gras Challenge Masks. Our Saturday evening banquet attendees will join the ATHA Board in celebrating a Popular Choice Award. If you

haven’t ordered your mask pattern, or designed your own, you can find details in the article on page 37. If you do not plan to attend the biennial, send your mask with a friend. Join the fun! You do not have to be present to win the Popular Choice Award.

You may want to come early or to remain after the conclusion of the biennial to explore and enjoy the city. 250 restaurants have now opened or re-opened. The garden district is alive and well. The French Quarter is open for business. The old/renewed New Orleans is waiting for you! Your ATHA Board looks forward to meeting you at the Biennial.

With this ATHA Election Ballot Issue, I am reminded that my four year term as President will terminate with the installation of officers. Installation will take place at the Annual Membership

Meeting on Wednesday evening in New Orleans. I appreciate the opportunity to have served you as your ATHA President during this exciting time in ATHA’s history. I will discuss, in depth, my role as your ATHA President in an upcoming issue of our newsletter. We will look at ATHA – where we were, where we are, and our future direction, as discussed/voted by your ATHA Board. We have accomplished much, but we have much more to do in the years ahead. YOUR VOTE will help decide the future direction for your/our ATHA organization.

PLEASE, EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE! Postmark deadline is May 15, 2007.

Happy Spring!

Carol