

ATHA BOARD AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATIONS

EXECUTIVE BOARD BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

President

Tricia Travis, San Antonio, TX

ATHA is a valuable resource for those who desire to learn to rug hook and has proved to be an asset to promote creativity, learning, and sharing of ideas through the rug hooking community. I have benefited from an enjoyable rug hooking experience for over 30 years. Others taught me and now I teach many new rug hookers across the country through my shop of 18 years, COUNTRY GATHERINGS. I have had the opportunity to work with many members of ATHA from all over the country as President for the past two years. We all share a common desire to continue to learn, create new and exciting rugs and share what we have learned with others. I seek to continue to broaden the participation of ATHA in educating and teaching others — especially those new to the art form. I ask for your vote to continue as President of ATHA. triciatavis2@gmail.com

Vice President

Stephanie Allen-Krauss, Montpelier, VT

Though my life has taken many twists and turns, rug hooking has always been the constant theme and is certainly a way of life for me now. I am a fourth generation rug hooker and I learned to hook at age six from my mother. During my teenage years she taught me about dyeing and then rug repair as a young adult. In 1999 I took over the administration of GREEN MOUNTAIN RUG SCHOOL and a year later opened a retail shop called GREEN MOUNTAIN HOOKED RUGS in Montpelier, VT. I enjoy all aspects of rug hooking including designing and teaching. In 2010 I was honored with the *Governor's Heritage Award* for best folk artist in the state of Vermont. During the past 25 years I've been a member of the GREEN MOUNTAIN RUG HOOKING GUILD, serving as vice president, and more recently as treasurer in TIGHR - The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers. I've been a member of ATHA for many years and I would like to play a more active role, so I'd appreciate your vote for Vice President. vtpansy@greenmountainhookedrugs.com

Secretary

Libby Miller, Laurel Park, NC

I retired to Hendersonville, NC in 2006 after working many years as an elementary school teacher and library media specialist. A hobbyist at heart, I dabbled in everything from stained glass, basket making, quilting and numerous other crafts. It was a visit to a rug show sponsored by the TARHEEL RUGGERS guild in Hendersonville where I found my next and most favorite craft - rug hooking. I found a home in the guild with members who were welcoming and eager to share their craft. As luck would have it there was a second guild, the MERRIE MOUNTAIN HOOKERS, located in Asheville which also welcomed me with open arms. As a guild member, I held the position of secretary for the TARHEEL RUGGERS, I am currently the web master for the western North Carolina hooking guilds and currently vice president of the MERRIE MOUNTAIN HOOKERS. I love the challenge of co-planning and organizing the annual hook-in with the help and support of all the guild members. I am indeed lucky to have a network of inspiring and loving people who see rug hooking as their passion and are willing to share their knowledge and expertise. I would love to have your support for the position of Secretary. libbil2@gmail.com.

Treasurer

Pamela D'Auria, Holiday Island, AR

I am a retired Certified Public Accountant with over 35 years of experience in public and industry accounting. Through the years my responsibilities included external and internal audits, financial and government reporting, corporate income taxes, accounts payable, technical accounting and cash management, with over twenty years as a manager.

When I retired a couple of years ago, I had no idea what I would do and had few friends outside of work. I began rug hooking in the late 1990s but hadn't hooked in several years. I decided to check out my local shop in Wichita Falls and was overwhelmed by their welcome and friendliness. And I was tantalized by all the wool available today. Since then I have made friends around the country through rug hooking and am never at a loss as to how to spend my time. I want to give back to the craft that has meant so much to me, and see it continue to thrive. pjodauria@gmail.com.

Librarian

Deb Burcin, Lampeter, PA

My name is Deb Burcin and I am from Lancaster County, PA. I have been the ATHA Librarian now for the past year and I am asking for your support once again to continue in that position. I have been involved with the planning of many hook-ins with our WOOLWRIGHTS guild. I was the chairman for the auction in the 2011 ATHA Biennial in Lancaster, PA and I was the president of our local guild for two years. I have enjoyed the past year being able to make connections with people and in helping them receive information in book form, pamphlets or CDs from the ATHA library. I have been hooking now for ten years and still have so much to learn. Access to our library has improved over the last year and there is so much information available to you. I hope you take the opportunity to look at the ATHA library online! dburcin54@gmail.com.

Communications Director

Kathryn Kovaric, Vail, AZ

My name is Kathryn Kovaric and I am running for Communications Director. It would be my pleasure to serve in this capacity and make a contribution to ATHA. Having served as assistant director for NORTH CENTRAL MCGOWN TEACHERS' WORKSHOP for ten years, my primary responsibility was the compilation and editing of the annual report. My professional background includes 22 years as a middle school English and Journalism teacher; I enjoy both writing and proof reading. Rug hooking has been my avocation for 38 years and I truly enjoy sharing it with others. booklady246@hotmail.com.

Historian

Jill Hurd, Fort Wayne, IN

I have been rug hooking for over 40 years and was fortunate to be there when ATHA first started back in 1979. During those early years, I served in several Board positions and since then have watched ATHA grow from 15 members to 4200+ members today. I started my career as a psychiatric social worker, but soon realized that computer programming and design was my true calling. While I enjoy other hobbies such as bonsai, gardening, handcrafts and genealogy, Rug hooking has been the one passion that has lasted into my retirement years. I ask for your support and hope to serve as your next Historian. jillho777@gmail.com.

Regional Coordinator

Teri A. Hedrick, Brecksville, OH

I have been a member of ATHA since 2011. I am a member of the WESTERN RESERVE RUG HOOKERS, WOOLWRIGHTS RUG HOOKING GUILD, THE FORT LAURENS RUGCRAFTERS, and the MIAMI VALLEY RUG HOOKING GUILD. I have been the web administrator for the ATHA website since 2016. I work with members on a daily basis helping them with password resets, logging into the website, and renewing their membership online. I also update the website when needed for changes in chapters, events, resources, etc.

I was the Registration Chair for the 2017 ATHA Biennial in Cleveland and I am also serving in that position for the 2019 ATHA Biennial in Colorado. wrmrugs@gmail.com.

Sharon Saknit, Renton, WA

My name is Sharon Saknit and I am a McGown certified rug hooker with 25 years of hooking and 20 years of teaching experience. For me, rug hooking is the equalizer and balances the complex pieces of my life. It is the creative outlet which offsets the rigid, defined boundaries of a career. In short, rug hooking keeps me sane!

Rug hooking over the years has given me a lot. Many of the gifts have gone unnoticed at the time but have contributed immensely to who I am as a person. Promoting our art form and continuing its growth is a responsibility none of us should take lightly. Being elected to the position of Regional Coordinator would allow me to extend my sphere of influence and empower others to do the same. I'm a believer in the need for gatherings and supporting the community piece of our organization. I would strive to connect with each of the Regional Representatives in an effort to leverage our individual experiences and ideas. I believe that I have a lot that I can bring to the table in this position and that the timing is perfect.

Thank you for considering me as a nominee on the ballot. asksharon@roseofsharonrugs.com.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

REGION 1

Lauri Troutman, North Berwick, ME

I live near the scenic coast of Maine. My full-time work is as a Director of a Youth Program/Boys and Girls Club on a military base. Outside of work I love being creative. One of my fondest memories is walking into the red barn of the SHELBURNE MUSEUM in Vermont for a rug show. I expected to see Oriental rugs—but the barn was filled with the 2003 HOOKED IN THE MOUNTAINS show and it was the first time I had ever encountered hand-hooked rugs. It changed my life.

I am a proud member of the MAINE TIN PEDLARS and have served as President and Vice President overseeing speakers and programs for the group. I am a founding board member of the HOOKED RUG MUSEUM OF NORTH AMERICA (HRMNA) and worked with some amazing volunteers to create the Edward Sands Frost exhibit. I co-host the Eliot Hook-in each January and am director of the ALFRED RUG HOOKING RETREAT weekend held each spring and fall. In addition, I have contributed to projects including *Loops of Love*; the *Noah's Ark Project* designed by Mary Sheppard Burton and Leonard Feenan; and most recently the donation of a hand-hooked wall hanging

to the BROTHERS OF CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION who oversee the facilities for the Alfred Retreat. I have promoted rug hooking by demonstrating the art at local festivals and museums and have also coordinated several trips for individuals to visit the HRMNA.

I would live to serve as the Region 1 Representative because my skills include coordinating groups, gathering and organizing information as well as good communication skills. In addition, my connections with many member of the rug hooking community will enable me to be a strong advocate for the Region 1 ATHA Chapters.

REGION 2

Jeri Livingston, Exton, PA

I have hooked rugs for several years and enjoy the process from pattern selection, to shopping and the actual hooking. I still struggle with color planning despite having been tutored by the best teachers. A huge perk is the friends you make along the way and the suggestions they give. My retired life is pretty ordinary, wife, grandmother and as a retired nurse volunteering at a clinic for the working poor and uninsured. I have enjoyed the opportunity of being the Region 2 Representative for the last four years and hope to continue with the position over the next two-year term. Talking to the various chapter presidents and getting to know them has been great. The Chapter presidents are the group that keeps ATHA going. jeriliv@hotmail.com.

REGION 3

Caroline Twigg, Keedysville, MD

Caroline and husband Ron started their hooking adventure over ten years ago. First learning at the local library, they were taught to pull loops but knew there was more to learn. Caroline started searching for teachers and soon was organizing classes to learn how to dye wool. Caroline was instrumental in starting WITH HANDS AND HEARTS ANTIETAM FIBER ARTISTS, ATHA CHAPTER #121, and served as its first president.

Caroline owns EAGLES NEST WOOLENS in Keedysville, Maryland. This area is not only beautiful but full of history, located only minutes from the Antietam Battlefield National Park. Caroline and Ron live in a hand-hewn log home along with their beloved beagles Otis and Maple. Ron has lovingly converted their attic into a beautiful studio. wool4meplz@verizon.net.

REGION 5, Candidate 1

Anne Norvell, Florence, AL

I began rug hooking in 2002 when my youngest child went to college. I fell in love with the art of rug hooking and also the wonderful friendships I developed along the way. None of my friends in Florence, Alabama hooked so in 2011 I opened a rug hooking shop in my home. The name of the shop is COUNTING SHEEP. We have open hooking every Tuesday. Now many of my friends are rug hookers, and we seem to have a new addition to our group every week. I am originally from Rome, Georgia. My husband and I retired in Florence, Alabama, my husband's home town. I am a member of the DOGWOOD CHAPTER of rug hookers in the Atlanta area. I teach beginner rug hooking, and have also had the privilege of hosting classes with some of our accomplished instructors in the ATHA association. It would be my pleasure to represent the rug hookers in Region 5 and I would appreciate your vote! annenorv@comcast.net.

REGION 5 Candidate 2

Julia Hoyle, Clemson, SC

I have lived in upstate South Carolina most of my life and currently live in Clemson, SC with my husband, Kevin, one dog and three cats. I have worked in Workforce Development for 28 years and currently work from home as a business/sales consultant. I was first introduced to rug hooking around 1998 when my sister announced she was going to a rug hooking class taught by Betty Krull. Of course, I wanted to join in! We continued hooking weekly with Betty in Greenville, SC until she moved back to PA to be near her family. I was a charter member of the ATHA CAROLINA WRENS GUILD in Greenville in the early 2000s. About four years ago I helped form the ATHA PALMETTO RUG BUGS guild and have served as Secretary/Treasurer since then. I recently became a member of the ATHA CRESCENT LANE RUG HOOKERS out of Athens, GA. About eight years ago when life and work eased up, I started actively looking for rug camps and hook ins to attend. I enjoy studying under many different teachers and I am amazed at the variety of things I am still learning after 20 years of rug hooking. I have tried fine shading but prefer more primitive, medium to wide cut. Cats are my favorite subject to hook. jshcat@gmail.com.

REGION 6

Pamela Hanshew, Kokomo, IN

My name is Pamela Hanshew. I have been hooking for the last four years, so in comparison to my peers I am a baby hooker. I was introduced to rug hooking at Beth Notaro's Winter Woolen in 2014. Since then I've been able to take part in several classes and expand my knowledge and skills. I have met many fellow rug hookers who, although far superior in their abilities, have taken me in and provided friendship and tutelage which has been truly wonderful for me. I am an active member with both RUGMATTERS in Kokomo, IN and PUCKIHUDDLERS in Fishers, IN. I recently stepped in as Region 6 Representative and would greatly appreciate the opportunity to continue serving our community. phanshewog@gmail.com.

REGION 7, Candidate 1

Jean M. Warren, Dousman, WI

I have belonged to the CREAM CITY RUG HOOKING GUILD in Southeastern Wisconsin and an ATHA member since 2010. I have attended national/regional events and workshops including the MCGOWN EXHIBIT in 2010, SAUDER RUG HOOKING WEEK in 2016 and the ATHA BIENNIAL in 2017. I am the current president of the CREAM CITY RUG HOOKING GUILD where I have developed and maintain the guild website. I am also involved in many area events demonstrating, exhibiting and promoting the art of traditional rug hooking. jwarren7@wi.rr.com.

REGION 7, Candidate 2

Elsie Ulland, Newton, IA

I started rug hooking in 2002 and have attended many rug camps (Decorah, IA; Ripley, WV; Manistee, MI; Holland, MI; Rock River, IL; Rochester, MN; Valley, NE; and Milford, NE) — as well as many hook ins. I also have had rug hooking workshops in Newton for thirteen years hosting a variety of teachers.

One of my goals as Region 7 Representative would be to visit each guild during the year. I will encourage members to engage in participation in ATHA at the national and local level. I enjoy rug hooking, traveling, meeting new people and encouraging them to learn to rug hook. I am a member of CIRA (Central Iowa) and RAHR (Rochester, MN.) I meet with a group in Bondurant once a month, in Newton weekly and join another group in Osage, IA. LCU@iowatelecome.net.

REGION 8, Candidate 1

Lisa Hooper, Liberty MO

I am a self-proclaimed fiber junkie. I found the art and craft of rug hooking through a chance encounter with the person who would become my mentor, friend and soul sister at a McDonald's parking lot while traveling through Oklahoma. Serendipity at its best!

Still a relative newcomer to hooking rugs when compared to the veterans, I hook both primitive and fine shading and have yet to settle on a favorite. As long as the texture of fiber is involved, I love it! I live in the Midwest with my husband and two dogs and we're lucky enough to have our two grown children close. I have a full-time job, but when I'm not working, I'm hooking or otherwise playing with fiber. I am a member of two ATHA chapters — Region 8's STATE LINE RUG HOOKING GUILD in my home city of Kansas City, MO, and Region 9's OK SCISSORTAIL FIBER ARTS Chapter. I love studying new techniques and looking for inspiration for new projects where I can pull loops. The history of rug hooking is as rich with stories of connections between the rug hookers themselves as it is with the styles and patterns they choose to hook. It is a history of support and encouragement and of welcoming new people into the circle; of teaching, sharing and giving. The chapters in ATHA's Region 8 continue these traditions. Today though, we have the advantage of technology that allows us to share our stories with a larger audience; to encourage and celebrate an even larger group of fellow rug hookers; and to promote our art form to more people than ever before.

I would like to support this group of artists and craftsmen and women as the Region 8 Representative, fulfilling the duties as outlined by the National ATHA Association. lhoop793@gmail.com.

REGION 8, Candidate 2

Valerie Begeman, Rapid City, SD

My name is Valerie Begeman and I live in Rapid City, SD — which may be the farthest western reach of Region 8! I was born and raised in eastern South Dakota and married my high school sweetheart. We will celebrate our 45th wedding anniversary in 2019. I am retired from a career in real estate and also have a background in advertising event planning, and owned a retail shop. I began rug hooking in 2004 when I sat in on a hooking group that my mother belonged to, and the rest is history. I have a McGown certification and love to teach locally at shops, community education classes, hook ins and schools. I am a member of the BLACK HILLS AREA RUG HOOKERS.

The length and breadth of Region 8- from the border of North Dakota and Canada to the southern tip of Missouri and eastern Illinois to western South Dakota encompasses a diversity of people, places, traditions, and excitingly

enough - rug hookers! Each of us is very special and unique. We are a tapestry of techniques, ability levels, ages and interests. But, we all offer something special to the art of traditional rug hooking - our time and talents. I would embrace the opportunity to communicate, encourage, and motivate fellow rug hookers in their quest to further and build their rug hooking communities. I am a great team player and working with the Regional Coordinator to address concerns and planned events of Region 8 chapters would enhance the success of sustaining and building more chapters within our region. v.begeman@yahoo.com.

REGION 9

Lurie McAdow, Houston, TX

Serving as your Region 9 Representative for the past year, I have enjoyed interacting with members, connecting new members with ATHA Chapters and sharing the news about our region in our newsletter. I respectfully ask for the opportunity to continue to serve as your Region Representative. I live in Houston, TX so having chapters across six states presents a challenge for making personal visits to each chapter, but that is my goal for the next term. Besides serving as your representative I serve as president of the HOUSTON ATHA HOOKERS chapter. I look forward to continuing to serve our region for the next two years. luriemcadow@aol.com.

REGION 10

Carla Jensen, Stites, ID

I have been hooking rugs for approximately ten years. When we retired and moved back to central Idaho, I left behind my friends and fellow rug hookers from the WOOL POPPIES. When my sister and I discovered that there was not an ATHA guild in our area we decided to work toward informing the community about traditional rug hooking. Today the HELLS CANYON RUG HOOKERS are a thriving group of individuals who promote rug hooking by teaching children, demonstrating in public and displaying our work at the Lewis and Clark Center for Arts and History. I would like to serve ATHA as a Regional Representative to assist in the promotion of traditional rug hooking in our area, and to continue to energize the ATHA groups within the Region. My goal would be to attend a meeting of each guild within the Region to see what they are doing and to share information across the region. jack@lazyracing.com.

REGION 11

Emily Wied, Lake Oswego, OR

My husband and I have two grown kids, who have given us three marvelous grandsons. We have lived in Oregon for 48 years and enjoy a lot of outdoor life we find here—hiking, fishing, and boating.

I was introduced to traditional rug hooking about 18 years ago, and it has truly been my passion ever since. Here in the northwest area and especially in the Portland, Oregon area where I live, there are a great many wonderful and creative rug hookers who have been willing to share their expertise and encouragement with me as I have taken on new and more challenging projects. Now that I am retired, I have really enjoyed traveling around our NW Region to a great variety of workshops and camps. Rug hookers are so very friendly I always feel welcome and feel like I have added more new “sisters” to my “family”.

I would really enjoy being the ATHA Representative for Region 11, not only to meet more of the rug hookers in the rest of the region, but also because I try to connect new-to-their-area or lonesome rug hookers to groups of others in their area who hook. An important part of the position is being a liaison between our National ATHA and the local chapters —sharing concerns and ideas both ways. athaemily@yahoo.com.

REGION 12

Karyn Meyreles, Rancho Murieta, CA

I have been involved in sewing and craft arts all my life. My main interests are garment sewing, quilting, embroidery, including Brazilian embroidery. I have been president of two different chapters in the American Sewing Guild and was active in quilt and embroidery guilds. I have had a fascination with the historical perspective of needle arts, such as red work embroidery, Isle of Man quilts, Baltimore Album quilts, and rug hooking. A few years ago, while vacationing in Albuquerque, New Mexico, I attended a fiber show and a demonstration on rug hooking caught my eye. I gave it a try and the ladies there shared with me that an ATHA rug hooking guild existed where I live in Sacramento, California. News to me! The minute I got home I checked it out and contacted the guild. The ladies welcomed me with open arms and got me started and I have tried to soak up every ounce of information on rug hooking since that day. To make a long story short, I have ended up as the current president of that guild because I believe in giving back to an organization that gives to me. It has truly been an experience and I am loving all I am learning about rug hooking and needle punching not to mention all the lovely people I meet.

I would like to see more people share in the experience and knowledge of these skills. While I may not be the most experienced hooker there is, I am certainly enthusiastic! As a Regional Representative for ATHA Region 12, I certainly will learn more, share my skills of leadership where I can, meet many more people and of course spread the word about rug hooking!

I have worked over forty years in government administrative functions, ultimately working for over 30 of those years in executive leadership. I have retired a couple times and still work today as a consultant in government administrative functions and management. karyn@ranchomurieta.org

REGION 13

Loretta Moore, Godfrey ON, Canada

I realized after the first few loops that I pulled that I had discovered a fibre art that appealed to every creative bone in my body. I loved the almost Zen-like feel of pulling loops, loved playing with colour and developing my own colours through dyeing. Loved the final product.

I wish I could say that I have an overall style like so many rug hookers or fibre artists, but I love to try new things. Although my preferred style is primitive, antique looking wide cut rugs, I like to play with new colours, alternative fibres and techniques. I am drawn to antiques - rugs and furniture- and like to incorporate some of my rugs into the antique pieces I have found (some off the side of the road!)

But one of my greatest passions is introducing others to rug hooking and patiently explaining that this is NOT latch hooking. That true rug hooking dates back to the early 1800's and uses strips of wool or fabric. That it is not a paint by number art form - it allows for creativity in so many ways and can be as expensive or inexpensive as you could wish allowing anyone with any budget to become a rug hooker. I demonstrate at shows where I vend, I teach classes and love meeting hookers and wannabe hookers and talking hooking! I belong to the ONTARIO HOOKING CRAFT GUILD and became a member of ATHA a few years ago when one of my American friends showed me the amazing magazine. I am not a certified teacher but I can and do teach what I know! One of the reasons I would love this position is that I think we need to inform people about rug hooking and the history and the possibilities. We have a lot of rug hookers in Ontario and Quebec but the doors are open to converting so many more. Organizations like OHCG, ATHA and TIGHR provide amazing opportunities to do this. I love to share my excitement about rug hooking with as many people as possible. hookedonthelake@kingston.net

REGION 14

Deb Johnson, near Ramstein Air Base, Germany

In 2016 I moved with my husband to Ramstein Air Base in Germany from our home in Minot, ND. I have been interested in ATHA representation for a long while since I had no chapter in ND to which I could belong and wanted to maintain my rug hooking connections while living in Europe. I asked ATHA leadership for any members who were in Europe, and was given a few names of interested ladies. I became aware of one other in Germany who was actively hooking and we became friends. I also followed up with the others but they lived in Belgium, Channel Islands of the UK, and France. Distance for meetings was an issue, too. I feel there are interested parties and that ATHA deserved to have a European presence as well as an Asian connection so I contacted President Tricia Travis and expressed my interest in serving as Region 14 Representative. I outlined a short term plan for demonstrations, and featured artist shows at local libraries where people could see examples and also see someone at work on hooking a rug. My friend in Bavaria has recently become certified in teaching rug hooking with yarn at Amy Oxford's school. I have always been interested in needle arts and before discovering rug hooking, I, like many others quilted, needle pointed and knitted. I am the oldest of two daughters and learned most of what I know about needlework and rug hooking from my mother. She came to rug hooking late in her life and convinced me to give it a try. I did and the rest is history. I began seriously hooking in 1997 and have attended rug camps in ND and TX as well as ATHA Biennials. In the beginning I hooked from patterns from other designers but since moving to Germany have focused on designing my own patterns. My style is wide cut and primitive. johnsdk@gmail.com.

REGION 15

Open

REGION 16

Open

REGION 17

Michiko Shin, Nagakute City, AICHI, Japan

Since I have started my rug hooking, I have been able to associate with many friends from the United States and Canada. Through this wonderful craft, I learned not only technique, but also the love and friendship from my teachers and friends. Since 1989, I have been trying to spread the art of rug hooking in Japan through teaching, exhibitions, publishing a book and a TV appearance. I believe that being the Region 17 Representative would enable me to further rug hooking in Japan by the increased association with ATHA members.

Please take the time to read about our nominees for ATHA Board and Regional Representative Positions.

Your BALLOT WILL APPEAR IN THE APRIL/MAY ISSUE.