



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

Greetings ATHA Members:

It is with a great deal of nostalgia that I write my last message to you as your ATHA President. During the past four years, it has been a pleasure to meet and work with many of you. Following are some specifics I would like to share:

#### **Election Results**

Our election for the 2007-2009 Board and Executive Council is complete. Our thanks go to Jon Ciemiewicz, Nominating Committee Chairperson and to those who assisted Jon, Judy Long and Diana O'Brien, in completing the necessary details of the nomination process. Harry Cahill, ATHA Ballot Counter, reported 767 ballots counted. We had several contests for ATHA Board positions. Congratulations to all the winners! The election results can be found on page 21.

#### **Biennial Meetings Scheduled**

As the ATHA Biennial is held for the purpose of conducting ATHA business and meeting the needs of its members for education and fellowship, several ATHA meetings are scheduled before and during the biennial.

The Business Meeting for all ATHA members is held following a Meet and Greet Buffet on Wednesday evening. During the business meeting, minutes of the 2005 biennial meeting are read;

## *President's Message* **A FOND FARWELL**

all votes of the previous two day Board meeting are shared with the membership; a treasurer's report is given; and the 2009 ATHA Biennial location is announced! We then move on to the 2007-2009 Executive Board Installation. Former members of the executive council are recognized and the newly elected members introduced and installed. The installation provides an exciting time for ATHA members to meet and speak with both incoming and outgoing officials.

Judy Long, Newsletter Editor, and Renee Terre, Webmaster, will conduct a meeting for the Executive Council, all Regional Reps, Chapter Presidents, Editorial Board members, and those who are interested in writing articles for our newsletter and website. The meeting will take place on Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 pm at the hotel.

Phyllis Lindblade, Educational Chairperson, will meet with all Regional Representatives, Chapter Presidents and members to discuss our educational programs, and to provide ideas and discussion for chapter programs. This meeting will take place on Thursday at 4:00 pm.

Rug Registry Meeting – I will join Phyllis Lindblade to discuss the ATHA Rug Registry Program on Thursday at 4:00 pm as a program option for individual ATHA chapters.

Diana O'Brien, Regional Coordinator, will meet with all Regional Representatives and Chapter Presidents on Friday at

4:00 pm. A great deal of material and information will be presented explaining the function of the regions and chapters, as well as a non-profit status update.

**Thank you 2003-05 and 2005-07 ATHA Board, Council and Regional Representatives** for all of your hard work to move ATHA forward. We have accomplished much during the past four years. Diana O'Brien has placed an article in this issue of the newsletter detailing some of our accomplishments. See page 26.

I wish to thank Vice-President, Priscilla Sharp, who has demonstrated a clear understanding of and support for our ATHA Constitution and By-laws. She has held positions at the local, regional and national levels under the umbrella that our charter members designed.

Secretary, Patty Yates has been an important asset to our Board. Present at Board meetings, she effectively participated in all discussions while keeping copious notes! Her minutes were complete and timely.

We have had two Treasurers during my two terms in office. Thanks to Barbara Benner for the 2003-2005 term and Sibyl Osicka for the 2005-2007 term. Both treasurers kept excellent computerized records of expenditures and receipts.

Diana O'Brien served this term as Regional Coordinator. She has single-handedly brought all ATHA regions and chapters into 501c3 non-profit status under the ATHA parent umbrella.

Additionally, Diana continues to meet with regional representatives and chapter presidents, explaining our umbrella organization and responsibilities of each office.

Marilyn Bottjer has served ATHA the longest of any of our Board members and has held many positions over the years. During my tenure she served as Regional Coordinator during 2003-2005 and Librarian in 2005-2007. She has always been a staunch supporter of ATHA. Burma Cassidy served as Librarian in 2003-2005. I appreciated her input and hard work.

Pat Cross served as Historian during 2003-2005. Joanna Palmer replaced Pat and never missed a beat! Both ladies were concerned with the enormity of preserving our most important historical records. Pat purged and Joanna researched and committed records to archival storage containers.

Ruth Muraskin served as Communications Director for two terms. Ruth has handled our insurance policies, insurance/liability certificates for individual chapter events, and has acted as Biennial Liaison to the 2007 Biennial Committee during the past year. I owe her husband, Joe, a great deal of thanks for reviewing legal contracts during my past four years as President.

Our Executive Council also includes paid and unpaid positions. Cynthia Norwood has

been volunteer Ads Manager for many years. She seeks out new businesses and works cooperatively with our newsletter editor. Trish Becker is the editorial assistant for the newsletter and has helped our Editor with her expertise.

Phyllis Lindblade has filled the Education Chairperson position during the past three years. Our organization selected education as their purpose for fulfilling our non-profit status. This position is key to providing educational program ideas to our regions and chapters.

I received permission and funds from the ATHA Board to work with a website designer in 2003. He designed our current web-site. Renee Terre volunteered to keep the website current and has maintained the website for the past three years.

ATHA has two contracted positions, those of Newsletter Editor and Membership Chairperson. During my four years, we have had the good fortune of working with two newsletter Editors. My term began with Editor, Janan Cull Ott. Janan had wonderful ideas for our newsletter and worked tirelessly to improve each issue. Upon Janan's resignation, Judy Long returned to her former position as Editor. Judy has been a pleasant, low-keyed and obliging newsletter Editor who has been deadline oriented.

Nancy Martin served ATHA well as Membership Chairperson

for 15 years. Joan Cahill replaced Nancy shortly after I became President. Joan took the reins from Nancy and has done an outstanding job collaborating and cooperating with our members. Joan is a stickler for detail. She computerized our membership program and keeps it current and available at all times.

Regional Representatives have been a vital part of processing information of our organization. Executive decisions are shared with individual chapters and members through their regional representatives worldwide. I appreciate each and their work to bring their own region into better communication with each other and with other chapters in their areas.

As you can see, I have been a very fortunate ATHA President. I have had outstanding people to work with. I cannot thank each and every one of them enough for their cooperative spirit and willingness to work on behalf of our organization.

It has, indeed, been a pleasure to serve each and every member. I look forward to continuing my work with the Rug Registry and to serving the incoming Executive Council as ATHA Past President.

Thank you all for sharing your time, talent and friendship with ATHA and with me personally.

Most Sincerely,  
*Carol*

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## From the Editor...

I wish to thank those who have submitted pictures for the covers. Please don't stop. When you receive this newsletter, you will still have time to mail me a picture of your favorite rug. An email with an attachment is fine for this selection, with other requirements being met at a later date. The pictures will be reviewed and

selected at the biennial in September, so hurry.

The newsletter would appreciate a 'free pattern' section offered with each issue. For more details see page 33. Teachers and designers are welcome to donate a pattern for the membership.

There are five pages dedicated to the various ATHA Chapters across

the country starting on page 29. This is a very useful tool for finding a group when relocating or traveling around the country. There are contact numbers and email addresses to meet with other hookers out of or in your area.

Enjoy the end of the summer and write an article with pictures for your newsletter.

Thank you for all you do.