



*Submitted by
Ruth Muraskin
ATHA President*

President's Message: **Passing The Baton**

I am sincerely and truly delighted to be writing my first message to you as your President. I love ATHA. I believe in ATHA. I am very grateful to all of you for putting your faith in me. I have been on the ATHA Executive Board for 4 years as your Communications Director, and because of all of you, I will have another two years (maybe more) as your President. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Our newsletter is changing. It's a step in the right direction, and we will all benefit. Several of our new board members will be making contributions that will be welcomed. If you find that we're not covering a topic of interest to you, please let me know. I can

only do something if I'm made aware of it. I might not always be successful, but I will certainly try.

We have many members who, like me, do not belong to chapters. Our newsletter always has our chapters and regions reporting news and happenings. This is the backbone of our organization, and I fully understand how you feel rather unattached reading some of these articles.

The newsletter is our best vehicle for communication. It is desirous to include more hooking topics: i.e., technique, dyeing, designing, etc. In this issue and future issues, I would like to cover the topic of how we finish our hooked pieces, whether they are rugs, wall hangings, pillows, etc. I need information from you for this. Individual replies will be printed and credited. I, too, will contribute!

One of ATHA's prime objectives is to spread the craft of rug hooking. We truly can accomplish this. The secret is called sharing. We all have an interest in rug hooking or we wouldn't be members. Share your knowledge and skills to anyone who wants to learn. Don't be afraid to give of your self for fear of not knowing "enough". There is no such thing as "enough".

In my early hooking years, I couldn't wait to get my chance at the computer to read "Padula" (a flower with no biological origin), an online hooking group started by Marion Wilson. Sharing hooking news, ideas, how-to's was exhilarating. I want our newsletter to have the same kind of excitement.

On behalf of our new ATHA Board, I would like to wish you all a Happy Fall!! *Ruth*