Amended March 2016

**The Gator Group Chapter of ATHA - By Laws**

**Article One**

**Name and Location**

**Section 1.** The name of the organization is the Gator Group, a Chapter of ATHA (Association of Traditional Hooking Artists, hereafter referred to as the Group.

**Section 2**. The office of the organization shall be the resident address of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the group.

**Article Two**

**Purpose**

**Section 1.** The purpose of the Group shall be to:

1. Develop and promote interest in rug hooking.
2. Maintain high standards of creativity in this art form.
3. Provide the means for an exchange of ideas and information among members.
4. Promote educational activities to enhance the interest in, and the quality of, rug hooking.
5. Stimulate and promote interest in rug hooking within the area serviced by the group.
6. Provide its members with mutual support, instruction, and inspiration in their quest for reaching their fullest potential as rug hooking artists.

**Article Three**

**Officers**

**Section 1.** The officers of the Group shall consist of a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. They shall constitute the Executive Board.

**Section 2.** The **President** shall preside at all meetings.

**Section 3.** The **Vice-President** shall perform duties in the absence of the President and shall serve on committees as requested by the President.

**Section 4.** The **Secretary** shall record the proceedings of all meetings and perform such other duties as may be required by the Executive Board.

**Section 5.** The **Treasurer** shall receive dues and pay all expenses, make a report at all regular meetings and maintain an up-to-date listing of membership.

**Section 6.** The Executive Board shall select and appoint the Following: Hospitality Chairperson, Membership Chairperson, Program Chairperson, Communications Chairperson, Publicity Chairperson, Historian, and other committee chairpersons as necessary. Each Chairperson shall be responsible for committee members and shall make reports at regular meetings as requested by the President.

**Section 7.** The **Communications Chairperson** shall send out notices of meetings, maintain an accurate listing of membership addresses and telephone numbers, and shall act as liaison with the National Association (ATHA).

**Section 8.** The **Hospitality Chairperson** shall attend to refreshments for meetings.

**Section 9.** The **Program Chairperson** shall arrange for programs meeting the goals of the group, with the approval of the Executive Board.

**Section 10.** The **Membership Chairperson** shall maintain an accurate listing of members and assist them in their maintaining their membership in the National Association.

**Section 11.** The **Publicity Chairperson** shall provide publicity as needed for events to take place.

**Section 12.** The **Historian** shall maintain a record of the history of the group. Pictures and other articles may be provided by members.

**Section 13.** All officers and Committee Chairpersons shall serve for a period of two years or until their successor has been appointed by the Executive Board.

**Article Four**

**Executive Board**

**Section 1.** The **Executive Committee** shall consist of the elected officers and immediate Past President.

**Section 2.** The **Executive Board** shall transact the necessary business of the Group between its regular meetings and perform such other duties as are specifically given to it.

**Section 3.** Committee Chairpersons may attend Executive Board meetings in an ex officio position.

**Section 4.** In the case of a vacancy occurring on the board, the successor will be appointed by the Board to serve the remaining term of the vacated office.

**Article Five**

**Membership**

**Section 1.** Membership is open to persons interested in and sympathetic to the purpose of the Group.

**Section 2.** Membership shall be valid for a twelve month period from date of issue with a sixty day renewal option.

**Section 3.** Guest are eligible for membership upon the payment of dues to the Treasurer and to the National Organization.

**Section 4.** Honorary Membership may be bestowed at the discretion of the Executive Board.

**Article Six**

**Dues**

**Section 1.** The annual dues of the group shall be as proposed by the Executive Board and ratified by the membership, plus annual dues as required by ATHA, due and payable before November first of any given year.

**Section 2.** The fiscal year runs October to September.

**Section 3.** Dues will be collected beginning in April of each year and any member who fails to pay the dues by November meeting will be considered in arrears and will be dropped from the new roster, which will be distributed at the December meeting.

**Section 4.** Guests attending more than one weekly hook-in during a fiscal year will be required to pay Gator Group yearly dues.

**Section 5.** As guests, they will be advised of the ATHA National Guild membership requirements. If they choose not to join the ATHA National Guild, their guest status will remain. Guest status will enable them to participate in the weekly local hook-ins and Gator Group activities. Guest will not be able to participate or vote in the local ATHA Chapter meetings though they may attend.

**Article Seven**

**Meetings**

**Section 1.** The Group shall hold regular meetings from October through April.

**Section 2.** A Nominating Committee shall be appointed at the January meeting by the President. This committee will submit its slate at the February meeting and a vote will be taken at the March meeting. New officers will be installed immediately and will assume their respective responsibilities. The outgoing President may remain on the Board for another year to aid in the transition of responsibility.

**Article Eight**

**Amendments**

**Section 1.** Changes in bylaws may be proposed at any regular or special meeting.

**Section 2.** Proposed amendments shall be ratified at a regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present.

**Article Nine**

**Parliamentary Authority**

**Section 1.** Robert’s Rules of Order shall be the Parliamentary Authority.

**Section 2.** The President may appoint a Parliamentarian as necessary at his/her discretion.

**Article Ten**

**Quorum**

**Section 1.** A majority of the members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 2.** A majority of members present shall constitute a quorum.

**Article Eleven**

**Bereavement Gifts**

**Section 1.** On the death of a Gator member, a $100 dollar donation will be made in their memory to the organization where the ATHA Gator Guild is meeting. On the death of a member’s spouse, a $50 dollar donation will be made in the spouse’s memory to the organization where the ATHA Gator Guild is meeting.