

# A Brief History of American Telugu Association

**Compiled & updated by: Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal**

(Original article was written by B. Madhava Reddy, Hanmanth D. Reddy and Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal)

*The list of current and past Executive Committee/board of trustees/committee chairs as well as the recipients of ATA awards is included at the end of the article*

The idea of starting a national organization of Telugu speaking people in USA was under consideration by concerned persons of people of Telugu origin for about two to three years (1988-90). Finally, in early part of 1990 about two dozen like minded individuals from various parts of USA gathered for an informal meeting in Chicago and discussed various aspects related to Telugu people of USA and India. After long deliberations, an idea to start a National Organization named American Telugu Association (ATA) was agreed by the participating delegates. Additional input was solicited from various individual around the country about forming an Interim Board of the organization and formally registering the organization in Illinois as a not-for-profit organization.

***The Beginning and the events of first decade:*** After getting very encouraging feed back around the community, a town hall meeting was organized in Naperville, Illinois which was attended by more than 150 Telugu speaking people from different parts USA. To facilitate the formation and functioning of the organization, Interim Executive committee was chosen from the Chicago area. This interim Executive Committee consisted of Chairman (Krishna Reddy), Vice-chairman (Kasinadhuni M. Prasad), Secretary (Madhava Reddy), Joint-Secretary (Gnaneswar Kavetti), Treasurer (Rajendar Pampati), and Joint-Treasurer (Chandrasekhar Thunga). The Interim Executive Committee was entrusted to communicate with Telugu speaking people in different regions of the country who will be interested in serving as Interim Board Member. With the help of Hanmanth Reddy (IL) and Bandaru S. Reddy (NY) about 22 members were chosen to serve in the Interim Board in addition to the Executive Committee.

With the first ATA logo (designed with the help of Balarami Pammi, NY) and stationary at hand, the Interim Executive Committee got quickly into action of taking care of all formalities to incorporate the organization. American Telugu Association was formally incorporated as not-for-profit organization in Illinois in September 1990 and also received tax exempt status at the same time.

*The main purpose of the organization is to assist and promote literary, cultural, educational,*

religious, social, economic, health and community activities of the people of Telugu origin as well as to promote exchange programs for students, scientists, and professionals of Telugu origin between the United States of America, Canada and India and other countries. With this main objective, a mail campaign was initiated nation wide for membership drive. In initial attempt ATA was able to reach about three thousand families in this membership campaign. The response was very encouraging and membership reached around 500 in the first year it self. Simultaneously, the planning was also in progress to hold first ATA Telugu conference and Youth Convention in Chicago in July of 1991. A conference committee was formed by the end of December 1990 Kasinadhuni Prasad as Convener. In early part of 1991, the conference committee meetings were held at Convener's house, and in one of these meetings, Devulapally Krishna suggested the name of America Bharathi for ATA Newsletter. The first issue of America Bharathi was published in the early part of the 1991.

A constitution committee was formed to formulate the articles and by laws for ATA under the chairmanship of Susarala Viswanatham. The draft constitution was presented in the first ATA General Body Meeting held in Chicago during the first ATA conference. This inaugural conference was very well received and about 1500 people attended this first ATA event. The General body approved the initial constitution and extended the term of Interim Executive committee up to the end of 1991 until the new Board of Trustees were elected. First batch of Board of Trustees were elected unanimously in September 1991 which elected its first Executive Committee. The members of first ATA Executive Committee were, Sadasiva Reddy (President), K.S.M. Prasad (President-elect), Yashoda Reddy (Secretary), Charan G. Reddy (Jt. Secretary), Mr. Raghava Rao Vanguri (Treasurer), Tukaram Chavan (Jt. Treasurer).

At this stage, ATA decided to hold World Telugu Conference and Second ATA conference in New York during July 1992. Bandaru Sivarami Reddy was Convener of this conference. Second ATA conference was a great success and was attended by about 4000 people. After the 1992 ATA conference, ATA conferences are being held every two years. The third ATA conference was held in

San Jose, California under the leadership of Durisala Desiah (President) and Kota Reddy (Convener). In 1995, then ATA President Mr. Charan G. Reddy convinced the Board to hold 4<sup>th</sup> ATA conference in Houston during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday weekend. Under the able guidance of Hanmanth Reddy as ATA President, A.V.N. Reddy as Convener, ATA conferences reached to new level and set many standards that were followed and surpassed in subsequent conferences. About 5000 people attended the Houston ATA conference from many parts of USA and India. During this conference, the General Body adopted the amended ATA constitution that extended the term of Executive Committee to two years, so that the same committee will be able to serve and make better planning for the conference and take care of other association activities. Keeping with the ATA tradition, 5<sup>th</sup> ATA conference also set many new records and had its share of success under the leadership of Dr. Gopal Reddy Gade (President) and Mr. Davendar Reddy (Convener).

ATA activities took a major leap forward beginning with Millennia Telugu Conference (6<sup>th</sup> ATA Telugu Conference and Youth Convention) during July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of year 2000 in Atlanta. The sixth ATA conference Core Team (Narender Reddy, convener; Shaker Reddy, coordinator; Syam Yellamraju, co-convener; Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal, member; Ramakanth Rallapalli, member) under the leadership of Srinivasa Pinnapureddy (ATA President, 1999) and Adishesha Reddy (ATA President 2000) demonstrated a true team spirit and partnership with local telugu association (TAMA, telugu Association of Metro Atlanta). True its conference theme “*navatha, navyatha, nanyatha*” this event achieved numerous milestones, planned several new and innovative activities like all day business conference and Shatavadhanam and many more. This conference, which served as a model for subsequent ATA conferences, produced first time a professional quality inaugural song and entire souvenir on CD. The extensive use of multimedia was one of the highlights of this conference. Moreover, the Atlanta conference not only was financially successful, but also contributed in developing elaborate conference guidelines (organizational structure and administrative plan along with business-financial plan) for future events.

**Marching into the second decade:** Successful hosting of 2000, the Millennia Telugu Conference, ATA set new tone for the organization and its mission as well as future activities. ATA started a series of conferences in Andhra Pradesh, India to share the experiences and expertise of nonresident Telugu profession with the people with the people of Andhra Pradesh. ATA's first Medical and Business conferences were successfully held in Hyderabad

during the month of December 2000 and 2001 respectively.

ATA administrative activities in second decade took a major step forward with the establishment of regular office at Naperville, IL (the official registered place) under the leadership of 2001-02 term executive committee. All the financial and other routine operations are coordinated from this location with the help of office staff and Executive Director.

The organizing team of 7<sup>th</sup> ATA conference (Subhashini Boyareddigari, convener; Srinivasa R. Pinnapureddy, coordinator; Krishna Bapatla, co-convener; Bheem Shenkar Penta, local coordinator) under the leadership of Sandhya R. Gavva, ATA President (a local resident) demonstrated a true team spirit and partnership with local Telugu association (TANTEX) and achieved numerous milestones. As promised, the Organizing Team delivered a Texas-size event without any glitches. Like the Atlanta event this conference was also a financially very rewarding. The Magnificent beauty of the banquet hall and the banquet set the right tone from the beginning. Like in other conferences, this conference also had many “firsts” such as for the first time that *Telugus* could register on-line, Spiritual and Youth Committees published separate souvenirs, Business Seminars Committee published a “How To” handbook, and Panel Discussions and Women's Forum conducted discussions of “hot topics of the day” on the main stage. One of the highlights of the inaugural program was *Samatha-Mamatha-Yuvatha* theme ballet by local talent with lyrics, melody and music. Overall the conference was very successful and well attended.

**Growing Pains:** Along with its rapid growth more people are showing interest in the organization's governing affairs and its activities. ATA is not only a progressive and rapidly growing organization but also catering to the needs of Telugu people across the USA with diversified interests. ATA upholds all the democratic principles which are the corner stones of this organization. Every two years fourteen (or thirteen alternately) new trustees are elected for American Telugu Association Board for a term of four years by respective category or membership (3 from Grand patron, 3 from Patron and seven/eight from Life membership category). In the quest for new candidates to fill open governing positions in the ATA, we must remind ourselves of the fact that the selected candidates will be a major source for supporting activities that facilitate the advancement of our Telugu community. For the first time during 2002 several members in the life membership category showed interest to serve as trustees than the number of openings available on the board that resulted in the election. Lack of clarity within the Constitution and Bylaws and misinterpretation by

few individuals who are not familiar with working practices and traditions of the organization probably contributed to an unhealthy gossip that took place after the 2002 elections. Board of trustees took corrective measures to fix some of these and other shortcomings in the Constitution and Bylaws. The revised constitution and bylaws was ratified by the membership at large in November 2003. Complete dismissal of the frivolous law suit that took lot of the energy and financial resources of the organization since the beginning of the 2003 by the Illinois judicial system is a clear vindication for this organization and its democratic practices.

**Keeping with previous traditions** the new executive committee (2003-04) started several new projects in our mother land through ATA foundation. Adopt a child to educate, asthma medical camp, polio vaccination are some of the projects that merits special recognition.

Celebration of ATA-Roju--*Maathruboomilo Mahotsavam*" during the December 2003 in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India, full filled the long cherished desire of ATA board of trustees to show case the talents of American Telugu Youth side by side with talent of our mother land. During the ATA Roju, ATA organized literary and culture programs along with the hosting of second medical and business conferences in Andhra Pradesh and recognized prominent Telugu Persons in Sangeetham (Padmavibhusan Dr. Mangalampalli Balamurali Krishna), Saithyam (Padmabushan Dr. C. Narayana Reddy), and Nruthyam (Padmasri Dr. Natara Ramakrishna).

ATA 2004 organizing team under the leadership of A.V.N. Reddy (ATA President), Murthy Chimata (Convener), Ramesh Tummuru (Co-convener) Chandra R. Gavva (Coordinator) and Ramanamurthy Yedavalli (Local Coordinator) with an excellent support from Telugu Association of Greater Chicago (TAGC) as a co-host delivered very successful conference that was attended by more than 8,000, a first time record for any Telugu conference held in this country. Traditional decorations, the magnificent beauty of the banquet hall and the banquet that was attended by over 2,200 set the right tone from the beginning. Like in other conferences, this conference also had many "firsts" to its credit such as "*avadhanam*" on the main stage. One of the highlights of the inaugural program was *Puttinintiki puna pravesham* theme ballet by local talent and the lyrics, melody and music were very good. We are very sure vendors who have participated in this conference must have been very happy, as seen by large crowds in exhibits area. With the all glory and successes this conference had its share of minor glitches especially

in hospitality and registration areas and that needs more attention in future conferences.

**Like in the previous years** the new executive committee under the leadership of Mohan Mallam, president of ATA started several new projects in Andhra Pradesh through ATA foundation. Adopt a child to educate, HIV-AIDS awareness and prevention of fluorosis problem merits special recognition. The new tradition started by the last executive committee also received much attention from the current executive committee to celebrate "ATA-Vedukalu"-- in our mother land, Andhra Pradesh, India during December 2005 as well as "ATA Roju" in different cities in this country. As a part of this celebration, several events were undertaken in A.P. India, such as cultural activities both in Hyderabad and Tirupati, CME seminar in Hyderabad, HIV-AIDS awareness rally in Warangal and a rural folk/village festival in Kundaram village (Warangal Dist). These events generated large publicity for ATA activities and helped to solicit donation and support for the 9<sup>th</sup> ATA conference.

**Biannual Conferences** are not only the few main activities that ATA undertakes every year. Through various committees, ATA reaches its objectives and goals. For example, through ATA foundation committee, ATA provides financial assistance to various developmental projects in India. ATA raises and distributes funds for various charitable activities and provides financial aid to the victims of natural and other emergencies both in our mother land and adopted country. America Bharathi, a literary and communication mouth piece of ATA reaches over 6,000 thousand Telugu families every other month and it is emerging as one of the premier Telugu literary publication outside of the Andhra Pradesh, India.

**As this article went into press**, the arrangements to host 9<sup>th</sup> ATA Telugu Conference and Youth Convention in Long Beach, CA are in full swing and are ready to host another successful conference. "*Pravaasa geetham nava sangeetham*" is the theme for this conference. And I am very optimistic that ATA 2006 organizing team under the leadership of Mohan Mallam (ATA President), Dharma Reddy Gummadi (Convener), Buchi Reddy (Co-convener) Sanjeeva Reddy Tangutri (National Coordinator) and Lakshman Koka (Local Coordinator) with an excellent support from a large number of enthusiastic volunteers who is serving in different committees would also be setting several new milestones like many previous ATA conferences. The commitment of ATA to work with local organizations like previous conferences is quite evident this time also. Local Telugu Association, TASC is Co-hosting ATA 2006.

***Past Executive Committee/Board of Trustees and  
Committee Chairpersons***

**From the Formation to Present**

**Interim Board/Executive Committee 1991**

***Executive Committee***

**Krishna P. Reddy, *Chairman***  
**Kasinadhuni M. Prasad, *Vice-Chairman***  
**Madhava B. Reddy, *Secretary***  
**Gnaneshwar Kaveli, *Joint Secretary***  
**Rajender Pampati, *Treasurer***  
**Chandrasekhar Thunga, *Joint Treasurer***

***Trustees***

Bandaru S. Reddy (NY/NJ), Balaram Pammi (NY/NJ), Dhanajai Alli (NY/NJ), Mohammed Kuddus (NY/NJ), Ramachandra Reddy (AL), Tukaram Chawan (AL), Durusala Desaiiah (MS), Sadasiva Reddy (MI), K. Chalama Reddy (MI), Pratap Ganti (OK), Ramakrishna Inti (AZ), K. Udayshankar (MO), Prasanna Vijaya Reddy (IL), Satyanarayana Batchu (IL), Verainder Yeldandi (IL), Viswanatham Susarala (IL), Ram Kannegundla (NY), Ananth Reddy (CA), Kameswara Rao Mantha (CO), Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal (TX), Chandrashekar Marrepally (CA), Venkateswara Rao Vemuri (CA)

**Executive Committee/Board of Trustees 1992**

***Executive Committee***

**Sadasiva T. Reddy, *President***  
**Prasad M. Kasinadhuni, *President-Elect***  
**Yashoda Reddy, *Secretary***  
**Charan G. Reddy, *Joint Secretary***  
**Raghavarao Vanguri, *Treasurer***  
**Thukaram Chawan, *Joint Treasurer***

***Regional Vice Presidents***

Ram Kannegundla, Narendar G. Reddy, Prathap P. Reddy, Subramanyam Vemuri, Prathap Ganti, Chandrasekhar Marepally

***Trustees***

Adishesha Reddy, AVN Reddy, Chandrasekhar Thunga, Desaiiah Durisala, Dashrathram Nallabolu, Gopal R. Gade, Jayachand Pellegonda, Kondelrao Saripalle, Madhava B. Reddy, Madhusudana Reddy, Narayana Pirlamarla, Rajendar Pampati, Ramana Yadavally, Ramachandra G. Reddy, Sachidananda Damaraju, Shaker J.C. Reddy, Srinivasa D. Reddy, Sudarsanarao Paruchuri, Vidyasagar Annam, Viswanatha Reddy, Avanthi A. Reddy (Youth), Raghu Thunga (Youth)

**Executive Committee/Board of Trustees 1993**

***Executive Committee***

**Prasad M. Kasinadhuni, *President***  
**Desaiiah Durisala, *President-Elect***  
**Sadasiva T. Reddy, *Past President***  
**Chalama K. Reddy, *Secretary***  
**Madhu K. Reddy, *Joint Secretary***  
**Ram Kannegundla, *Treasurer***  
**Jayachand Pallekonda, *Joint Treasurer***

***Regional Vice Presidents***

Ravi Aditam, G. Purshotham Reddy, I. Kota Reddy, Jitendar M. Reddy, Parashuram Reddy, Kondalrao Saripalle

***Trustees***

Vidyasagar Annam, Thukaram Chawan, Murthy G. Chimata, Gopal R. Gade, Pratap P. Ganti, Dasharatham Nallabolu, Indiarra Pammi, Rajendar Pampati, Shyam M. Puppala, Adishesha Reddy, Charan G. Reddy, Krishna P. Reddy, Madhava B. Reddy,

Narendar G. Reddy, Satyanarayana G. Reddy, Srinivas D. Reddy, Yashoda Reddy, Chandrasekhar Thunga, Visweswara R. Yadavalli, Ramanamurthy Yadavally, Lakshmi Tegulapalli (Youth), Srinivas P. Reddy (Youth)

### **Executive Committee/Board of Trustees 1994**

#### ***Executive Committee***

**Desaiah Durisala, *President***  
**Charan G. Reddy, *President-Elect***  
**Prasad M. Kasinadhuni, *Past President***  
**Indiara Pammi, *Secretary***  
**Jayachand Pallekonda, *Joint Secretary***  
**Ram Kannegundla, *Treasurer***  
**Purshotham G. Reddy, *Joint Treasurer***

#### ***Regional Vice Presidents***

Chalama K. Reddy (MW), R.S. Dhanireddy (NE), Narendar G. Reddy (SE), Tukaram Chawan (S), Pratap D. Ganti (SW), Chintala N. Reddy (W)

#### ***Trustees***

Vidyasagar Annam, Ravinder Bachireddy, Gopal R. Gade, Chandra M. Joshi, Adishesha Reddy, Balaram P. Reddy, Jithender M. Reddy, Krishna P. Reddy, Raghuvveer Reddy, Sadasiva T. Reddy, Srinivas D. Reddy, Yashoda Reddy, Viswanatham Susarala, Chandrasekhar Thunga, Kaveeta Ravuri (Youth), Sandeep Reddy (Youth)

### **Executive Committee/Board of Trustees 1995**

#### ***Executive Committee***

**Charan G. Reddy, *President***  
**Hanmanth D. Reddy, *President-Elect***  
**Desaiah Durisala, *Past President***  
**Chintala N. Reddy, *Secretary***  
**Shyam Kandula, *Joint Secretary***  
**Chandra M. Joshi, *Treasurer***  
**Ravi Kumar Kondabolu, *Joint Treasurer***

#### ***Regional Vice Presidents***

Viswantham Susarla (MW), Ram R. Voruganti (NE), Narendar G. Reddy (SE), Prashant B. Reddy (S), Pratap D. Ganti (SW), Dharma Reddy (W)

#### ***Trustees***

Adishesha Reddy, Chalama K. Reddy, Challori J. Reddy, Chandra M. Joshi, Chandrasekhar Thunga, Chintala N. Reddy, Charan G. Reddy, Dharama Reddy, Durisala Desaiah, G.L.N. Reddy, Gopal R. Gade, Indira Pammi, Jithender M. Reddy, Prashant B. Reddy, Pratap D. Ganti, R.S. Dhanireddy, Ram Kannegundla, Ram R. Voruganti, Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal, Ravinder Bachireddy, Shyam Kandula, Virupaksha Reddy, Rekha Reddy (Youth), Vijay Pallekonda (Youth)

#### ***Committee Chairpersons***

Durisala Desaiah (Naminations), Balaram Pammi (America Bharathi), C.V.N. Reddy (Membership), Ramachandra G. Reddy (Trust Committee), Challa Shekhar (Long range planning), Subramanyam Vemuri (Cultral & Languages), A.V.N. Reddy (Conference guidance), Basi K. Reddy (NRI), Sadasiva T. Reddy (Finance & Fund Raising), Madhava B. Reddy (Public Relations & Community Service), J. N. Reddy (Science , Technology & Student Affairs), Mohan Mallam (Constitution & By laws), Purshotham G. Reddy (Youth Activities)

### **Executive Committee/Board of Trustees 1996**

#### ***Executive Committee***

**Hanmanth D. Reddy, *President***  
**Gopal Reddy Gade, *President-Elect***  
**Charan G. Reddy, *Past President***  
**Pratap D. Ganti, *Secretary***  
**Sandhya G. Reddy, *Joint Secretary***  
**Madan Mohan Sunkari, *Treasurer***  
**Chandra M. Joshi, *Joint Treasurer***

### ***Regional Vice Presidents***

Ravi Kumar Kondabolu (NE), Narender G. Reddy (SE), Srinivas Voruganti (MW), Adishesha B. Reddy (S), Srinivas P. Reddy (SW), Mohan Mallam (W)

### ***Trustees***

Chandra G. Reddy, G.L.N. Reddy, Sudhakar G. Reddy, Chandra Sekhar Marepally, Ram Voruganti, Challori J. Reddy, Chintala N. Reddy, Jithender M. Reddy, Ravinder Bachireddy, Indira Pammi, Dharma Reddy, Yashoda Reddy, R.S. Dhani Reddy, Vijaya Bulusu, G. N. Naidu

### ***Committee Chairpersons***

Charan G. Reddy (Nominations), G.L.N. Reddy (Constitution & By laws), Jayachand Pallekonda (America Bharthi), Sudhakar G. Reddy (Membership & Directory), Ramchandra G. Reddy (Trust Fund) Chandrasekhar Thunga (Community Service), Roopchand Agrawal (Cultural), Durisala Desaiiah (Public Relations & Language), Vasudev R. Garlapati (Finance & Fund Raising), Ram Kannegundla (AB Trust Fund), Ramana B. Reddy (Long Range Planning)

## **Executive Committee/Board of Trustees 1997-1998**

### ***Executive Committee***

**Gopal Reddy Gade, *President***  
**Srinivas R. Pinnapureddy, *President-Elect***  
**Adishesha B. Reddy, *President-Elect***  
**Hanmanth D. Reddy, *Past President***  
**Sudhakar G. Reddy, *Secretary***  
**G. N. Naidu, *Joint Secretary***  
**Madan Mohan Sunkari, *Treasurer***  
**Bhushan Tadepalli, *Joint Treasurer***

### ***Regional Vice Presidents***

Chandra G. Reddy (MW), Shob Chepuru (NE), Shaker J.C. Reddy (SE), C.V.R.N. Reddy (S), Sandhya R. Gavva (SW), Syama Reddy (W), Vijaya Bulusu (W)

### ***Trustees***

Prem N. Reddy, Narsing R. Palep, Pratap P. Reddy, Chalama K. Reddy, Chandrasekar Marepally, Mohan Mallam, Sudhakar Rao Perala, Vithal Kusuma, Pratap D. Ganti, Geetha Komatireddy, Thukaram Chawan, Rajender R. Jinna, Devender K. Reddy, Rekha Reddy (Youth), Suman Palakodeti (Youth)

### ***Committee Chairpersons***

Hanmanth Reddy (Nominations), Madhava B. Reddy (Archives), Subramanyam Boyareddy (Constitution & By laws), Balaram Pammi (America Bharathi), Pratap P. Reddy (Membership & Directory), Ramchandra G. Reddy (Foundation), Anjan Rojanala (Community Service), Rajender R. Jinna (Cultural), A.V.N. Reddy (Public Relations & Language), Sudhakar Perkari (Finance & Fund Raising), Narender G. Reddy (AB Trust Fund), Ram Kannegundla (Long Range Planning), Ravi Kumar Kondabolu (Media Communcations), Basi K. Reddy (NRI), Srinivas G. Reddy (Youth Coordinatior)

## **Executive Committee/Board of Trustees 1999-2000**

### ***Executive Committee***

**Srinivasa R. Pinnapureddy, *President (1999)***  
**Adishesha B. Reddy, *President (2000)***  
**Sandhya R. Gavva, *President-Elect***  
**Gopal Reddy Gade, *Past President***  
**Thukaram Chawan, *Secretary (1999)***  
**Rajendar R. Jinna, *Secretary (2000)***  
**Sudhakar Rao Perala, *Joint Secretary***  
**Vidyasagar Rao Madhavarapu, *Treasurer***  
**Uma C. Reddy, *Joint Treasurer***

### ***Regional Vice Presidents***

Geetha Komatireddy (MW), Rajender R. Jinna (NE), Vithal Kusuma (SE), Narsing Rao Palep (S), Subramanyam Boyareddi (SW), Prasad Jeerreddi (W)

### ***Trustees***

Shoba Chepuru, Chandra Reddy Gavva, Vinayak Juvvadi, Balaram Pammi, AVN Reddy, Chalma K Reddy, C.V.R.N. Reddy, Devender Karra Reddy, Prem N. Reddy, Shaker J.C. Reddy, Shyama M. Reddy, Bhushan Tadepally, Anita Reddy (youth), Rajender Dicapalli (youth).

**Yella Reddy, Executive Director (1999-2001)**

### ***Committee Chairpersons***

Murali Chanduri (America Bharathi editor), Haranath Policherla (AB trust fund), Madhava Reddy (Archives), Pratap Reddy (ATA foundation), Vinayak Juvvadi (Business & NRI), Mohan Mallam (Bylaws & constitution), Sudhakar Reddy (cultural), Venugopal Putta (Electronic media), Vasudev Garlapati (Finance), Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal (Literary & Language), Sadasiva Reddy (Long range planning), Amulya Reddy (membership & directory), Gopal Reddy Gade (nominations), Jayaram Maddireddi (Youth affairs), Niranjani Reddy (community service), Bhushan Tadepally (Public relations).

### **Executive Committee/Board of Trustees 2000-2002**

#### ***Executive Committee***

**Sandhya R. Gavva, President**

**A.V.N. Reddy, President-Elect**

**Adishesha B. Reddy, Past President**

**Srinivasa R. Pinnapureddy, Past President**

**Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal, Secretary**

**Venugopal Reddy Putta, Joint Secretary**

**Vidyasagar Rao Madhavarapu, Treasurer**

**Chandrashekar Thunga, Joint Treasurer (2001)**

#### ***Regional Vice Presidents***

Chandra R. Gavva (MW), Arjun R. Dyapa (NE), Uma P. Reddy (SE), Subramanyam Boyareddi (SW), Basi Reddy (W)

### ***Trustees***

Arjun Dyapa, AVN Reddy, Balaram Pammi, Basi Reddy, Chandra R. Gavva, Charan G. Reddy, Chendrashaker Thunga, Geetha Komatireddy, Gopal Reddy Gade, Jitender Reddy, Malla Reddy Pailla, Mohan Mallam, Prasad Jeerreddi, Prem Reddy, Rajendar Reddy Jinna, Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal, Rama Rao Cherukuri, Sandhya Gavva, Srinivasa Pinnapureddy, Subramanyam Boyareddigari, Sudhakar Rao Perala, Swarna Chanduri, Syama Reddy, Uma P. Reddy, Venugopal Putta, Vidyasagar Rao Madhavarapu, Vithal Kusuma. Shyam K. Reddy (Youth), Sudha Reddy (Youth).

**Charn Reddy, Executive Director (2002)**

### ***Committee Chairpersons***

Murali Chanduri (America Bharathi editor), Haranath Policherla (AB trust fund), Madhava Reddy (Archives), Pratap Reddy (ATA foundation), Damoder R. Donur (Business & NRI), Vithal Kusuma (Bylaws & constitution), Chandra R. Gavva (Community Service), Sanjeeva Reddy (Continuing Education), Ramakanth Rallapalli (cultural), Sudhakar G. Reddy (Finance & Fund Raising), Tarakumar Reddy (Literary & Language), Vidyasagar Annam (Long range planning), Bhushan Tadepalli (Media) Amulya Reddy (Membership & directory), Adishesha B. Reddy (nominations), Ravi Kondabolu (Public Relations), Prem Reddy (Youth link), Shyam Sundar Yellamraju (Web)

### **Current Executive Committee/Board of Trustees (2003-2004)**

#### ***Executive Committee***

**A.V.N. Reddy, President**

**Mohan Mallam, President-Elect**

**Sandhya R. Gavva, Past President**

**Vidyasagar Rao Madhavarapu, Secretary**

**Satyanarayana Batchu, Treasurer**

**Arjun Dyapa, Joint Secretary**

**Amulya Reddy, Joint Treasurer**

#### ***Regional Vice Presidents\****

Harinath Policherla (MW), Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal (SE), Jithender Reddy (SW), Sanjeeva T. Reddy (S), Swarna Chanduri (W)

\*Regional Vice Presidents positions are replaced with non-trustee regional coordinators effective January 2004 and the present group of Regional Vice-Presents continued until the end of term of the current Executive Committee—December 2004.

### ***Other Trustees***

Blarami Pammi, Basi Reddy, Charan Reddy, Gopal Reddy Gade, Kamala Chimata, Malla Reddy Pailla, Narayana Pirlamarla, Prem Reddy, Rama Rao Cherukuri, Rajendar Reddy Jinna, Sreeram K. Reddy, Syama Reddy, Uma P. Reddy, Vithal Kusuma, Yella Reddy

**G.L.N. Reddy, Executive Director; Madhava B. Reddy, Office Coordinator**

### ***Regional and Overseas Coordinators***

Chandrasekhar Reddy (IL), Damodar Donur (NJ), Suresh Jilla (NY), Vijayapal Reddy (IN), Arjun Dalvay (CA), Gopinath Reddy Vidive, (A.P. India), Satyamurthy Pulipaka (A.P. India)

### ***Committee Chairpersons***

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**List of Previous Recipients of ATA Awards**  
**(Presented during the Bi-annual ATA Conference and Youth Convention)**

ATA recognizes and honors outstanding individuals of Telugu origin residing in United States of America for significant success in their professional, literary, arts and performance fields or contributed for humanitarian/community causes along with prominent individuals of Telugu origin from our mother land, India during its biannual conference and other major events. The evaluation of nominations for ATA awards was always a Herculean task for the awards committee to select a few finalists from a large group of outstanding individuals in each category. Each and every nominee was distinct and unique and worthy of recognition. ATA is proud and humbled to recognize the following individuals who excelled in their profession or community service since its inception.

**1<sup>st</sup> (inaugural) ATA Telugu Conference and Youth Convention**  
**(Chicago, 1991)**

<i>Raja Reddy</i>	<i>Computer/Engineering Technology</i>
<i>Parchuri Sudarsana Rao</i>	<i>Community Service</i>
<i>Bhima Reddy</i>	<i>Industry-Business</i>
<i>Koteswar Rao Batchu</i>	<i>Medicine</i>
<i>Lakshmi Anand</i>	<i>Performing Arts</i>
<i>J. R. Gangadharam</i>	<i>Science</i>
<i>Vlecheru Narayna Rao</i>	<i>Telugu Language</i>
<i>Sunil Reddy</i>	<i>Out Standing Youth</i>

**4<sup>th</sup> ATA Telugu Conference and Youth Convention**  
**(Houston, 1996)**

<i>P. Sudhakar Reddy</i>	<i>Community Service</i>
<i>Malireddy Srinivasulu Reddy</i>	<i>Entrepreneurship</i>
<i>Siva P. Tayi</i>	<i>Entrepreneurship</i>
<i>Kalpalatha K. Guntupalli</i>	<i>Medicine</i>
<i>Chandrakantha and David Courtney</i>	<i>Performing Arts</i>
<i>E. Prem Kumar Reddy</i>	<i>Science</i>
<i>Chitten Raju Vanguri</i>	<i>Telugu Language</i>
<i>Girish V. Putcha</i>	<i>Youth</i>

**Organization Service Awards and Special Awards**

*Charan G. Reddy (Past President)*  
*Durisala Desiah (Past President)*  
*Subba Rao Yella*  
*Dattareyudu Nori*  
*I. Kota Reddy*

**5<sup>th</sup> ATA Telugu Conference and Youth Convention**  
**(Detroit, 1998)**

<i>S.V. Rama Rao</i>	<i>Arts</i>
<i>A.V.N. Reddy</i>	<i>Community Service</i>
<i>Sudhakar M. Reddy</i>	<i>Education</i>
<i>Ramachandra R. Reddy</i>	<i>Education</i>
<i>Syama Reddy</i>	<i>Entrepreneurship</i>
<i>Ravindranath Kambampati</i>	<i>Entrepreneurship</i>
<i>V. Malakonda Reddy</i>	<i>Entrepreneurship</i>
<i>C. Kanakambara Raju</i>	<i>Journalism</i>
<i>Amarnath Gowda</i>	<i>Law Profession</i>
<i>Sriram Sonti</i>	<i>Medicine</i>
<i>Lakireddy Balireddy</i>	<i>Philanthropy</i>
<i>J. N. Reddy</i>	<i>Science</i>
<i>Somayajulu P. Yedavally</i>	<i>Social Service</i>
<i>N. Damoder Reddy</i>	<i>Technology</i>

*Rama Rao Cherkuri: Life Time Community Service*  
*Ranga Reddy: Prominent Telugu Person*

**6<sup>th</sup> ATA Telugu Conference and Youth Convention  
(Atlanta, 2000)**

**Akkineni Nageswara Rao: Life Time Achievement**

<i>Anji Reddy</i>	<i>Business-Industry</i>
<i>Paila Mallareddy</i>	<i>Business-Industry</i>
<i>T. Ramachandra Reddy</i>	<i>Community Service</i>
<i>Ramalinga Raju</i>	<i>Engineering-Computers</i>
<i>Telidevara Bhimsankar Rao</i>	<i>Engineering-Technology</i>
<i>Darmapuri Vidyasagar</i>	<i>Medicine</i>
<i>Salitha Reddy</i>	<i>Medicine</i>
<i>Ranga Reddy</i>	<i>Political Leadership</i>
<i>Malireddy Srinivasulu Reddy</i>	<i>Science-Technology</i>
<i>Radhakrishna M. Jayanthi</i>	<i>Science</i>
<i>Satyam Mandapati</i>	<i>Telugu Literature</i>
<i>Gowri Pachi Golla</i>	<i>Youth</i>

**Organization Service Awards and Special Awards**

*Devendar Reddy Karra: Convener ATA 1998*  
*Gopal Reddy Gade: Past President (1997-1998)*  
*Hanmanth D. Reddy: Decade of Service*

**7<sup>th</sup> ATA Telugu Conference and Youth Convention  
(Dallas, 2002)**

**T. Subbarami Reddy: Life Time Service Award**

<i>Ragavendhra A. N. Rao</i>	<i>Community Service</i>
<i>Ramalinga Raju</i>	<i>Engineering-Computers</i>
<i>Telidevara Bhimsankar Rao</i>	<i>Engineering-Technology</i>
<i>V. K. Raju</i>	<i>Medicine</i>
<i>Sakkubai Naidu</i>	<i>Medicine</i>
<i>C.M.K. Reddy</i>	<i>Medicine</i>
<i>Lakshmi Damaraju and Satchidananda</i>	<i>Performing Arts &amp; Propagation of</i>
<i>Murthy Damaraju</i>	<i>Telugu Literature</i>
<i>Koteswar Rao Batchu</i>	<i>Philanthropy</i>
<i>Ranga Reddy</i>	<i>Political Leadership</i>
<i>Rao S. Rapaka</i>	<i>Science</i>
<i>Malireddy Srinivasulu Reddy</i>	<i>Science-Technology</i>
<i>Babu Yalamanchali Rao</i>	<i>Technology</i>
<i>Kamisetty Srinivasulu</i>	<i>Telugu Literature</i>
<i>Srinivasa Prasad Gutti</i>	<i>Youth</i>
<i>Vinay Krishna Puppala</i>	<i>Youth</i>

**Special Awards**

*Upendra Chivukula: Main Stream Political Leadership-USA*  
*Jayaprakash Narayan: Democratic Reforms-Political Education in India*

**Organization Service Awards**

*Srinivasa Reddy Pinnapureddy: Past President (1999)*  
*Adishesha B. Reddy: Past President (2000)*  
*Sudhakar G. Reddy: Past Secretary (1997-98)*  
*Rajendar Reddy Jinna: Past Secretary (2000)*  
*Narendar G. Reddy: Convenir ATA 2000*  
*Shekar J.C. Reddy: Coordinator, ATA 2000*  
*Syam Sundar Yellamraju: Most Valuable Person of the Conference (ATA 2000)*

*Chendrashekar Thunga: ATA Posthumous Recognition Award*

**8<sup>th</sup> ATA Telugu Conference and Youth Convention  
(Chicago, 2004)**

***Distinguished Service to Community & Telugu Cinema Industry: D. Ramanaidu  
Distinguished Community Service & Business Entrepreneurship: G. V. Krishna Reddy  
Distinguished Service in Science & Technology: V. Malakonda Reddy***

***From India***

*Deme Raja Reddy  
Kasu Prasad Reddy  
S. Gopala Sastry  
P. Hanumantha Rao  
Capt. S. N. Reddy*

*Medicine  
Community Service-Medica  
Community Service-Social  
Humanitarian Service  
Exemplary Services in Aviation*

***Form USA***

*Rathna Kumar  
Rao S. Anumolu  
Chilumula Ramchandra Reddy  
Rama Devi Cherukuri  
P. Seshu Sarma  
Sattiraju Surya Prasad  
Krishna Bapatla  
J. V. Lakshmana Rao  
Anu Mandapati*

*Performing Arts  
Business Entrepreneurship  
Community Service  
Telugu Literature  
Telugu Education  
Science  
Technology  
Journalism  
Youth*

***Organization Service Awards***

*Sandhya R. Gavva: Past President (2000-2002)  
Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal: Past Secretary (2000-2002)  
Vidyasagar Rao Madhavarapu: Past Treasurer (1998-2002)  
Yella Reddy: Past Executive Director (1998-2000)  
Charan G. Reddy: Past Executive Director (2003-2004)  
Murali Chanduri: America Bharthi Editor (1998-2002)  
Subhashini Boyareddigari: ATA 2002 Convener*

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*(The list of award recipients at 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ATA Telugu Conference and Youth Convention are not available to author-Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal)*