

A service-oriented national Telugu organization, North America Telugu Society (NATS), was established on Saturday, Feb 28th in Chicago, Illinois, USA. The primary objective of NATS is to **address the needs and concerns that affect day-to-day lives of Telugu people living in North America**. Dr. Ranakumar Nadella, a founding Director of the organization announced the name of the organization and stated that needs of the Telugu community in North America are changing over time and NATS will primarily focus to identify and address such needs. NATS will provide badly needed social, financial, and educational support services to the North American Telugu community in an effective and efficient manner. NATS will focus on charitable activities in North America and will encourage service-oriented Telugu people to lead the organization and avoid conflicts of interest. NATS will not have any affiliations with any political parties and will remain a completely non-political, youth-oriented organization. NATS will actively involve its General Body in setting its direction and providing regular input on its programs.

Several prominent Telugu community leaders from all over USA who are founding members of NATS are also present: Ravindra Alapati, Ravi Koneru, Veeraiah Chundu, Ramakrishna Lakkamsani and Nagabhushanam Potla from **California**; Madhu Korrapati from **New York**, Mallikharjunarao Chalasani from **Texas**; Srinivas Lavu, Nagendra Srinivas Kodali, and Murali Sajja from **Georgia**; Srinivasarao Kodali, Srinivas Koneru, Vishnu Veerapaneni, Druva Chowdary Nagandla, and Seshu Babu from **Michigan**; Sridhar Talanki from **Colorado**.

**NATS is organizing its first national celebration "America Telugu Sambaralu" in Orlando, Florida July 2-4, 2009 at Orlando's Orange County Convention Center.**

A fundraiser was also held in Chicago for upcoming "America Telugu Sambaralu". Many noted Telugu community leaders from across the country that attended the event donated generously along with **Donors from Chicago, Illinois** that includes Ravi Achanta, Praveen Moturu, Siva Chowdary Chennupati, Phani Ramineni, Venu Koduru, Vijay Venigalla, Krishna Adusumilli, Vijay Ganne, Srinivas Chundu, Prasad Talluru, and Mahesh Kakarala. **\$253,008** was raised at this event and it is an outstanding achievement for Telugu people in support of their community. **What an excellent beginning for a promising new organization!!!**

Telugu community in North America will be excited to have a celebration that will be different and involve all Telugu people and is going to be an interactive and collaborative meet. The agenda will be in a way that is fruitful for everyone along with continuing the integration of cultural competence, preserving the Telugu Language and heritage. Well-known Telugu poets and several prominent Telugu movie artists will take part this gala event and entertain Telugu families.

Sambaralu, as the name suggests will be great fun and it will have a fantastic party feel that includes a landmark entertainment programs that includes musical extravaganza, folk songs, Ghajals, mimicry, and dance performances to mention a few. Several budding artists from North America will also perform at the Sambaralu

NATS invites all Telugu families in North America to attend America **Telugu Sambaralu in the Sunshine State and enjoy the days of family, friends, food & fun!** We are sure that everyone will enjoy the time in Orlando, Florida – the best family vacation destination. Needless to say, Orlando is an international destination of choice with exciting family amusements and plenty of SUN and FUN. Families who attend Sambaralu can also take advantage of all the Orlando area has to offer. Orange County Convention Center ranked as one of the nation's top convention facilities.

Dozens of exhibits from businesses like Indian Jewelry, saris, Indian dresses, handicrafts, CD/DVD, books, and many Indian items will be part of this great event.

Please stay tuned for more details about specific guest list, registration accommodations and other exciting packages.