



AUSTIN HINDU TEMPLE AND COMMUNITY CENTER – ELECTION CANDIDATES

RAM BASHYAM (Contestant for President Position)



I am Ram Bashyam contesting for President at AHTCC in the upcoming elections and I am seeking your support to complete the unfinished agenda. Having spent several years with AHTCC and been part several managements. One thing I learned is to solve the critical problem or provide solution at the minimal disruption to our community and its members as well as to our devotees and bring several changes to alleviate devotee experience.

BOD Member 2014 -2017:

As BOD member I was able to work with all cohesively with one goal to improve temple experience and its ambience to devotees and this is continuous ongoing process

Fundraising Chair 2014 -2015

Raised 1.2 M to 1.4M with help of volunteers using various FR programs that helped our temple to complete the internal ornamentations project and following two years **2016 -2017** continued the FR activities at the individual level as well as from major donors, which helped us to complete our second Kumbhabhishekam and Prathista of Dwajasthambam. Key individual projects are Silver Kavachams for all the deities which is a total of 150Kg of silver, for Raja Rajeswari and Hanuman work in progress as well as key Utsava Murthys needed for our temple which is a massive totaling 500+kg Panchaloha Vighras. These are now our AHTCC asset

Rajagopuram Construction Core Lone Volunteer 2018-2019

Worked with Construction team to complete this mega project just in time. Coordinated efforts with India Sthapathy team as well as responsible for expenses, and finance to be on budget with room for little variations. I was able to provide just in time solutions at all FR activities at the devotee level or at the mela level raised almost \$250k+ to complete without any issues, again by his blessing we are able to complete and deliver it to the community, Yes, a big 70 ft tower which is largest in Texas. and we all should be proud of our AHTCC.

Religious Committee Member 2018 -2019: -

Gave positive inputs to the committee as well raised funds to some of the major functions like Ganesh Navarathri and Dasara we all worked as a team and proud to document here all the religious functions were successful and thanks again to all priests, devotees and volunteers to make these events a great success

What we need right now to our AHTCC as priority

- Serenity, Cleanliness and Security

- Kick Start Kitchen operations fully ASAP
- Bring the community together with one goal... that is unconditional support to AHTCC
- Develop some full swing sustaining income programs to AHTCC and follow up continuous basis.
- Develop MPRH close to a professional hall, as we can bring additional revenue and keep busy throughout the year.
- Restore Gurukulam attendance to its old glory and also device a plan to use Gurukulam Space for corporates as a meeting center on week days to bring in additional revenue

KUMAR CHALLA (Contestant for President Position)



Born in Jaggayyapeta and brought up in Hyderabad. Kumar Challa has been resident of Austin TX since 1997. Kumar Challa is an Engineer, He moved from Delhi to Austin to work for IBM, currently he is working for as Sr Program Manager at IBM. He is married to Srilatha and has a Son (Anirudh Challa - Undergraduate Freshman) and daughter Srinithya Challa (9th grader)

Association with Temple:

Kumar Challa has been involved with Austin Hindu Temple since 2001 and Became Trustee in year 2008-09

Volunteering at Temple:

Served in Communication team from 2008-2009, the main responsibility is to promote Temple events via weekly newsletter preparing content and sending it on time.

BOD Member 2009 -2011: Volunteered in Ganesha temple Sikara Pratista, Main temple Bhoom Pooja, Fund Raising for Main Temple.

Religious Chair: 2011 -2013 & from 2015 -2017:

During this tenure apart from overseeing day to day religious activities of Temple as Religious Chair Organized all major religious events. Some of the highlights are

- Coordinated Naga Devata Pratista, Main temple Kumabhishekam, DwajaSthanbha Pratista & Vimaa Kalasa Sthapana, kanna Moola ganapathi Pratista
- involved in discussing with Agama pandits on Deity Placements & Vighraha sizes during the Construction of the main temple.
- I initiated several projects that are successful and are bringing devotees and revenue to the temple, some of them are - Srinivas Samchara Seva (Spear Headed by Swamy P),Daily Chandi Homam During Navaratri,Karthika Masa Rudram Abhishekams & Maha Rudrams,108 days Sudarshana Homams before Chakra Talwar Pratista , AHT's onsite Pond for bathukamma , SriRama Pattabhishekam on SriRama naval and Nagara Samchara on Rama Navami day and Yearly Shanti Kalyanam/Srinivas Kalyanam

If I get an Opportunity to serve as President:

- I want to bring cleanness In and around Temple, Kitchen & Restroom and provide better Devotee.Experience
- Diversity in Executive Committee

- Drive to increase volunteer base.
- Improve relationship with various Organizations
- Improve Employee Satisfaction (Priest & Office Managers)
- Re Initiate Sandwich Seva to feed the poor.
- Drive to bring in more students to Gurukulam and Re innovate MPRH to bring in more cultural events to temple

Minimize expenses and increase Operational revenue

Continuous Feedback and Retrospective meetings on regular basis with the community and be a Servant Leader.

RAM MARAM

(Contestant for Vice President Position)

Hari Om! My name is Ram Maram. I have been living in Austin for a decade. My Spouse Rajani and I have two wonderful children, My daughter Sree is attending UT Austin and My son Abiram is going to Westwood Highschool who have always supported me for SEVA at the temple. First, I would like to thank the founders, the volunteers and the donors who helped with great passion and commitment to make this magnificent temple for the Austin Community. I have contributed my time in the past through various activities since we've kicked off the Grand Opening of the Main Temple. I've been a part of the Maha Kumbhabhishekam, Gurukulam, Prasadam Committee, Treasury Management, Executive Team, and the Event Coordinator of many breathtaking events. I have contributed my time, delegation, and passion to create spectacular events like Ganesha Chaturthi, Sri Rama Navami, Diwali, Etc. My persistent goal has always been to: ● Improve overall devotee experience with all aspects of all the Temple Services ● Enhance day to day operations and implement better practices and processes ● Organize events and Festivals effectively with the partnership of the Public ● Delegate work and motivate new volunteers to keep the ball rolling. ● Innovation to increase the number of devotees attending the temple. This Temple is for the whole Austin Community, So everyone should take part to contribute towards greatness, coming forward I will make sure Women take spots to contribute for a positive tomorrow. And the most important aspect of the temple in the coming decades is the next generation, That's why I will put in 100% effort to rebuild the Gurukulam programs where we teach kids about Dharma and many great values of our culture. Here are three specific areas in the facility I would like to address going forward: ● Keep the Facility Clean and Green ● Make sure the Infrastructure is always Maintained ● Always keep the Inventory for all aspects of the temple replenished Here are three specific areas in the management I would like to address going forward: ● Allow all parts of the executive committee to be empowered and accountable. ● Strenght to employees for ownership, and provide proper training to deliver their duties. ● Enhance By-laws for distributions of responsibilities and accountability. Also, I would like to make you the next best part of the temple. It's our Temple so we should always come together to keep the temple a staggering place. Together we can make AHT a role model temple across the nation, serving the cultural and spiritual needs for our community and the generations to come. Believe it or not, it is not an easy task to manage a huge nonprofit organization without your support, donations and volunteering. And I look forward to be working with you again for the next two years.

SIVA TALURU
(Contestant for Vice President Position)



My background is a B.tech which I parlayed into an accomplished IT career of 10+ years in private and public industry.

As a founding trustee, I've been a Temple volunteer for years and I was blessed to serve during the Temple's Maha Kumbhabhishekam.

Having served at the temple since its inception, I have established good relationships (and friendships) with people and developed a deep understanding about what is needed to grow and help the temple function well.

I firmly believe this temple belongs to everyone and should be a peaceful, welcoming place for the entire community. We can provide that for every devotee by setting aside any

misunderstandings (current or future) to come together and work towards this worthy goal.

MADHU AKKARAJU
Secretary, Unopposed

I have been living in Austin for more than 12 yrs. I have been associated with one of finest temples in Texas and it is our own Austin Hindu Temple. I have been doing bit of service whatever I could for more than 4 years now with passion, dedication and commitment. For me service means serve voluntarily and not to expect something in return.

Quick Facts

1. Kitchen committee chair (2016-2017) - All the credit goes to our cook Reddy garu (who passed away last year)
 - a. Great satisfaction for taking care of serving food/Prasadam to devotees offering varieties of menu choices
 - b. Introduced catering services to devotees' homes
 - c. Coordinated food arrangements for big events like temple Kumbhabhishekam, BATHUKUMMA, VASAVI Events, Annadanam for Sri Rama Navami and various other major festivals
 - d. Managed food preparations during DEVI NAVARATRI to Deeksha devotees
2. Religious Committee Member (2018-2019)
 - a. Blessed to be part of the religious committee. Great opportunity to associate and coordinate once in life time events like MAHA RUDRAM and SHIVA BRAMHOTSAVAM with help and support of AHT team. This meant a lot to me and my family.

Note - Maha Rudram is one of major and Rare events conducted in USA and our temple conducted this events for past few years. This year devotees participated from all across the country and Canada

As long as almighty gives me strength I wish to continue to serve with same commitment and Passion.

I hope many of you either know me personally or familiar with my name and if you trust that I can do Justice then I kindly request your support for my candidature.

Lastly, I have to thank my wife Saritha and son Sathvik who supported me in this journey and AHT team for giving me opportunity to serve.

MAHALAKSHMI PABBISSETTY
Assistant Secretary, Unopposed

I am Mahalakshmi Pabbisetty w/o Suresh Pabbisetty. I promise that I will serve the temple and community whole heartedly by following principles and ethics. This is God given opportunity to me to serve him and will work collaboratively with other elected executive team members to address every concern of the devotees in order to have an positive experience from the temple management group.

I will work hard with other volunteers and team members to implement new projects for improving serenity, prasadam availability, cleanliness, access to restrooms and communication services between devotees and management committee.
Om Sairam.

ARUN DENDUKURI
Treasurer, Unopposed



Arun Dendukuri is the current Treasurer and has served with Austin Hindu Temple for more than a decade as a Trustee and volunteer. He has also served as a Vice President.

Experienced Cloud Infrastructure architect, professional services, managed services and portfolio lead. infrastructure planning, design and architect of high-end technology products. A leader and catalyst for advancement in information infrastructure consulting. Always ready to rise to the challenges of technology and organizational change with continuous energy and enthusiasm to adapt and find creative solutions. Define game-changing strategies, but more importantly create solid plans and execute to success. Look for ways to bring out the best in people to not only achieve results but to optimize their career goals and talents. Perseverance, adaptability and determination to achieve business goals.

BABU GADAM

Assistant Treasurer, Unopposed



My name is Babu Gadam and I am contesting for the position of Assistant Treasurer for the Austin Hindu Temple. I have been a very active volunteer at the Austin Hindu Temple for the past 12 years and I witnessed the growth of this temple from a small establishment to the large temple that it is today. I have held the position of Senior Volunteer in many events throughout the temple's history and served without an executive title. This tenure, I would like to do "SEVA" as an assistant treasurer for the temple auditing existing inventory and maintaining financial records for the temple. I served as a senior volunteer and food in-charge for various events such as Diwali Melas, Rama Navami celebration, Holi, Navaratri, Abishekams, and Vighraha Prathisata.

I am also an active volunteer at the Art of Living Chapter in Austin. I have 15 years of experience in organizing and volunteering at a variety of Temple events in India. My experience with ticket distribution and food distribution has made me familiar with the routine operational needs of the temple. It has also made me a familiar face in the temple and strengthened my relationships with devotees. If I am elected as Assistant Treasurer, I will use my experience as an event in-charge and communication skills to execute innovative ideas. My technical skills in MS office and Website Management will facilitate the smooth execution of Treasurer duties. As a dedicated devotee and volunteer, I will strive to make the temple community more inclusive, organized, and accessible to devotees.