

Girl scouts announces 2012 Women of Distinction

Special to the Chronicle

Tallahassee Democrat

Oct. 17, 2012

Sixteen extraordinary women from the Florida Panhandle will receive the prestigious Girl Scouts Women of Distinction Award on Nov. 1 during the Awards Gala and 100th Anniversary celebration at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center.

The Women of Distinction honorees are emblematic of Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Low who encouraged girls to prepare not only for traditional homemaking, but also for possible future roles as professional women –in the arts, sciences and business – and for active citizenship outside the home.

Mrs. Gayle Avant, president of the legacy Girl Scout Council of the Apalachee Bend, Inc. from 1980-84 and a lifetime member, will receive the Pearl Lifetime Achievement Award. Secretary of the Florida Lottery, Cynthia F. O'Connell, will receive the Diamond Award. Joining Mrs. Avant and Ms. O'Connell as Women of Distinction are:

Kelly Dozier, Senior Vice President, Mad Dog Construction. Category: Architecture, Real Estate, Construction
Melanie Mays, Founder, The Monticello Acting & Dance Company. Category: Arts
Sue Semrau, Head Women's Basketball Coach, Florida State University. Category: Athletics and Fitness

Sue Dick, President, Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee-Leon County. Category: Business
Dr. Lady Dhyana Ziegler, Professor of Journalism, Florida A & M University. Category: Education

Robin Will, Supervisory Refuge Ranger, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Category: Environment
The Honorable Nancy Daniels, Public Defender of the Second Judicial Circuit. Category: Government, Elected Official

Karen Walker, Attorney, Holland & Knight. Category: Law
Dr. Charlotte Maguire, Retired Pediatrician. Category: Medicine and Health
Marjorie Menzel, Reporter, News Service of Florida. Category: Public Relations/Media
Rosanne Dunkelberger, Editor, Tallahassee Magazine. Category: Media/Magazines

Lt. Colonel Donna Pilson, United States Air Force, Commander of the Tyndall Research Site. Category: Science, Technology, Engineering, Math
Patty Mitchell, Coordinator, R.E.A.D Program. Category: Social Services
Debbie Moroney, Chief Operations Officer, PACE Center for Girls. Category: Youth Services

“We were honored to have outstanding nominees from throughout the council for this year’s historic occasion – Girl Scouts’ 100th Anniversary,” stated Kelly O’Keefe, an attorney with Berger and Singerman, Girl Scouts of the Florida Panhandle Philanthropy Committee Chair and 2011 Woman of Distinction.

Raslean M. Allen, Girl Scout Council of the Florida Panhandle, Inc. chief executive officer, stated, “The women chosen as this year’s Women of Distinction set an excellent example for our girls and the opportunities for women in positions of leadership and service to the community.”

The programs and services of the Girl Scout Council of the Florida Panhandle, Inc., teach girls to discover, connect and take action, while building courage, confidence and character, to make the world a better place. A United Way agency, the Council currently serves 5,454 girls across 19 counties of the Florida Panhandle with the assistance of 2,202 dedicated volunteers. To volunteer or join Girl Scouts, call 1-888-271-8778 or visit www.gscfp.org.