

New Alabama Voters League banquet tonight

BY LAURA CAMPER

lcamper@annistonstar.com

As the election season gears up, The New Alabama Voters League is celebrating with an awards banquet this evening at the Hilton Garden Inn in Oxford.

The league, which has been promoting voter registration and endorsing candidates in Calhoun County for 16 years, hosts an annual banquet to recognize and thank people who have made long-term commitments and contributions to the county, said board member Dottie Rimpsey.

This year seven women will be honored with Women of Excellence Awards and four men will receive Community Covenant Awards, Rimpsey said.

"These are people who've been in the county a long time; they've made excellent contributions to the community," Rimpsey said. "We just want to basically say thank you for all that you've done."

The league's 12-member board selects individuals who have demonstrated leadership and integrity and contributed to social progress, economic success and environmental excellence in the county, she said.

The banquet will also help set the foundation of the group's endorsements for this election year, she said.

"We're expecting big changes in Anniston over this voting season," Rimpsey said. "This is a big year. We'll be electing a new president and that's what the Alabama league is all about."

At the banquet will be a question-and-answer session in which the attendees are invited to bring up their concerns to the board members.

"This will give us somewhat of a basic building block, a foundation of what we

WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Doris Barron
- Georgia Calhoun
- Sandra Sudduth, emeriti at Jacksonville State University
- Rose Munford
- Sherron Jinadu, principal of Anniston High School
- Eula Tatman, vice president of the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama
- Dottie Rimpsey, former TV-24 news anchor and journalist, humanitarian

COMMUNITY COVENANT AWARD RECIPIENTS

- William Meehan, president of Jacksonville State University
- Rev. Everett Kelley, national vice president of American Federation of Government Employees AFL-CIO
- Steven Folks, director of Anniston Parks and Recreation Department
- Malcolm B. Street, judge in the 7th Judicial District

feel the public is looking for," Rimpsey said. "We then endorse those candidates that we feel best meet the needs or that will best meet the needs in the community."

The banquet will be at 7 p.m. Rimpsey said, there are still seats available at \$25 a person or \$50 a couple. The ticket includes dinner, the award ceremony with guest speaker Jerome Gray, former field director of the Alabama Democratic Conference, and the Q&A forum. Interested persons are invited to buy a ticket at the door, Rimpsey said.

Star staff writer Laura Camper at 256-235-3545.

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