Area Parishes Reap Benefits

Acadiana now has a regional arts coordinator. Michael Goudeau, a native of Cottonport and long-time resident of this area, recently took that position after a lengthy applicant screening period.

While the Acadiana Arts Council serves the needs of the arts organizations in Lafayette Parish, the regional arts coordinator will work out of the Arts Council office, traveling throughout the surrounding parishes in the Council's eight parish concern.

"I've got to seek out the people involved and show them what is available and what we can do to help them," Goudeau explained.

One of his first projects was devising an information query form.

"When I get them back," he said, "I've got to look up each of the people involved, see their needs and see what we can do. Often people don't know the tremendous talent available in their own towns. Some areas have budding arts organizations and some have long established ones."

Goudeau will contact arts organizations in each area and access needs, strengths, and weaknesses of each region. He will be a direct resource in terms of offering aid and advice with grant writing and overall fund development, long term planning and program development as well as offering organizational and logistical aid.

The Acadiana Arts Council offers similar services to Lafayette parish art organizations along with as projected display, office, storage, and work-practice space in the Old Library Building. The new post of regional arts coordinator is designed to spread the benefits of the Arts Council to the other parishes.

Goudeau received his bachelor of arts in music education from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and received his master's in music from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He was listed in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and he was a Blue Key member.

A former music teacher with Vermilion Catholic High School, he has directed a number of choirs. He is also co-founder and director of Chorale Acadienne.

His salary as regional arts coordinator is paid by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts.