Bilingualism accepted by Lions Club

YOUNGSVILLE — The Lions Club of this predominantly French-speaking village in the heart of Cajun country adopted a resolution allowing it to hold its proceedings in French as well as in English, the third civic club to do so in the area.

“The adoption of the French language by civic clubs in the French-speaking parishes of Louisiana is indicative of the growing grassroots support for bilingualism in the state,” said James Domengeaux, chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), a state agency created by unanimous vote of the 1968 Legislature to promote bilingualism through extended use of French, a language native to this deep-south state.

Domengeaux was guest speaker at the meeting at which the bilingualism resolution was adopted.

The resolution stated “the possession of a second language is a valuable asset in the development of the human person, in better understanding between peoples and in the progress of the nations as a whole in this modern world of instant communication.”

Last month the Knights of Columbus of Youngsville adopted a similar resolution. Previously the Optimists of New Iberia created an all-French club and earlier the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Church Point adopted a resolution supporting the work and aims of CODOFIL.

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