CODOFIL OFFICERS — New officers of the Lafayette Parish Chapter of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) were elected recently. They are, from left, Allen D’Augereau, treasurer; Judge Kaliste Saloom Jr., president; Mrs. Mathe Allain, vice president; and Bertrand DeBlanc, secretary.

CODOFIL Chapter Here Elects New Officers

Judge Kaliste J. Saloom Jr. was elected president of the Lafayette Parish Chapter of The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), at a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Chapter. A lifelong resident of Lafayette, Judge Saloom has been the secretary of the Lafayette CODOFIL Chapter and is presently serving as City Court Judge of Lafayette.

The success of the CODOFIL program in Lafayette necessitates the development and expansion of a two-phased program,” said Judge Saloom upon accepting the presidency. “The short term objective is the expansion of the French Language studies in the early and formative school years. The second phase is for the continuation of the program in advanced classes in school and in the community.”

Also Elected

Also elected at the meeting were Mrs. Mathe Allain, French instructor at USL, as vice-president; attorney Bertrand DeBlanc, secretary; Mr. Allen D’Augereau, a Lafayette businessman was elected treasurer.

The outgoing president, Judge Allen Babineaux, commended the people of Lafayette for their great interest and enthusiasm for the preservation of the French language. “Much has been done to spread the word about CODOFIL throughout the state and the world,” he said. “However, it is up to the local people to make the language an ongoing success.”

The Legislature provided the funds for CODOFIL, the Department of Education created programs for certification of Second Language Specialists and now it is up to the local people to give the movement its lifeblood, said James Domengeaux, chairman of CODOFIL.

Teacher Program

Domengeaux cited the project originally proposed by Dr. Richard Chandler at USL as an example of the teacher certification program. This program for second language specialists requires 24 semester hours. It is presently offered at USL, McNeese State University, LSU BR, LSU A and Northeast Louisiana University.

“The teaching of the French language in elementary schools is the main aim of the local CODOFIL chapter,” said Dr. Thomas Arceneaux, for men of the College of Agriculture at USL. He emphasized that French should be taught in all the elementary grades and not only at a particular grade level. The instruction of French has to be conducted from one grade level to the next in order to provide the students with a true learning experience and concurrent preservation of the language. Arceneaux added. Public opinion is the best means of realizing a sound instructional program of French at the elementary level, Arceneaux stated in his closing statement.