CODOFIL Council To Be Formed

Louisiana's French renaissance, centered in this hub city since its inception, takes another step forward Monday night with the organizational meeting of the Lafayette Parish Chapter of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL).

James Domengeaux, CODOFIL chairman, today urged all persons interested in the French movement to attend Monday night's 7:30 meeting in the Court House, fourth floor.

Preserve Culture

The French movement, or French Renaissance of Louisiana, as it is called is designed to preserve and expand this State's French language and culture.

"If this language is to survive in Louisiana it is absolutely necessary to develop grassroots participation in the movement to preserve and expand the French language," he said in inviting the public to the meeting. Bring a friend," he added.

The only way the movement will succeed is through grassroots support, he said, explaining, "CODOFIL is going to the people directly for support."

Sixth Parish

Lafayette will be the sixth parish to create a local chapter of CODOFIL, which is a State agency. Other parishes which have their own chapters are St. Martin, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafourche and Orleans. Domengeaux said CODOFIL intends to form parish chapters in each of Louisiana's 64 parishes.

"It should be the banner parish in the entire state," Domengeaux asserted, explaining that the French movement originated in Acadiana and Lafayette is the hub city of Acadiana. Interest in the movement is already widespread in this area, so we expect a large turnout Monday night," he noted.

20-Member Board

Like other parish chapters, the Lafayette Parish chapter will be autonomous in that it will carry on its own business and management. The chapter will be directed by a 20-member board. Various committees of the organization will act as liaisons between school boards and public officials.

Monday night's meeting will be chaired by Dr. Thomas Arceneaux, well-known French leader in Acadiana for many years and Dean of Agriculture at the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

Daily Advertiser
Oct. 18, 1970
P. 1, c. 6