French Teachers To Be Welcomed By PREFRAM

RAYNE — Presence Francophone en Amerique (PREFRAM), voted here this week to assist the Acadia Parish School Board in preparing a welcome ceremony for nine teachers from France who will be teaching in primary grades in the parish schools for the 1972-73 school year.

PREFRAM, an organization pledged to the preservation of the French language and culture in America, heard a report of the language program in which the French teachers will participate by Simeon Marcotte, elementary school supervisor for the parish.

Marcotte told the group he had just returned from Baton Rouge where he met with officials of the State Department of Education, co-sponsors of the program, along with CODOFIL and the Acadia Parish School Board, to formulate plans for the teachers’ arrival and their work during the coming year.

Pilot Project

Eight of the nine teachers coming to Acadia will have their salaries paid by the state department as part of a pilot project to be undertaken in parishes of Acadiana, while the ninth will have his salary paid by the Parish Board. Instructions will be on the primary level, grades 1, 2, and 3, and the French teachers have been allocated as follows: Central Rayne Elementary, 1; South Rayne Elementary, 2; Iota Elementary, 1; Church Point High School, elementary division, 2; and North Crowley Elementary, 1.

These teachers, 100 in all, will be coming directly from France, and until their arrival, it will not be known whether they will be men, ladies, or husband and wife teams. They will remain in Baton Rouge for a week’s orientation, after which they will be assigned to the parishes where they will be working for the year. This teaching experience in Louisiana has been offered by the French government in lieu of serving in the French military.

Need Assistance

Stating that those assigned to Acadia will need assistance in the way of temporary housing, locating permanent residences for their year’s stay, obtaining drivers’ licenses, and, in general, being shown around the community, and made familiar with all the principal places such as churches, stores, libraries, and other facilities, Marcotte asked the PREFAM council to sponsor these teachers and assist wherever possible in making them welcome in the parish.

The plan was unanimously and enthusiastically approved, and Mrs. Florence Faulk and Mrs. Rena Boudreaux, aided by other Rayne members, volunteered for this community, with Mayor Andrew Vidrine taking the chairmanship for Church Point, assisted by Pierre Varmon Daigle, and Aaron Cart volunteering his services and those of Sheriff Elton Arceneaux and Nolan Edwards for Crowley.