BACK IT STRONGLY

Acadian Ambulance
Great Local Service

Acadian Ambulance has been around eight years now, long enough for it to be considered another local service, and a good one at that. Actually, that life-saving enterprise is the largest of its kind in America, and operates in 12 parishes.

We think back before Acadian Ambulance Service Inc. (AASI) began here, and wonder what these Acadiana communities did for emergency medical service before then? We can safely assume that there were lives lost because immediate, urgent medical attention was not given. That danger no longer exists, because of the speedy, highly trained paramedics who man 34 ambulances around the clock.

The Advertiser has published many times the highly dramatic, but real-life stories of how Acadian Ambulance personnel save human lives, and not in robot-like, mechanical fashion but with a devotion all too often missing in these days of a self-centered society.

The latest dramatic addition to AASI’s services is a special “first-response” paramedic team that will be involved in on-the-scene treatment of critical patients. Paramedics in that program have completed more than 700 hours of study in a special course at USL and have gained national certification.

Acadiana got along without AASI before 1971, but we’d be lost without it now, as far as an indispensable life-saving facility is concerned. Big is such operations are big and costly to maintain. With a staff of 183 people, 34 ambulances, a nationally acclaimed electronic communications system the firm’s annual budget is $4,000,000.

The secret to Acadian Ambulance’s success is its membership. In 1978, the membership was 86,556. Last year it grew to 95,000. This year, AASI is striving for a goal of 100,000 at a $31 annual membership fee.

Despite the inroads that inflation has made in every facet of the economy, $31 is still a bargain rate. Non-members who need ambulance or emergency care must be charged $100 for one call alone. But it’s the membership that provides two-thirds of the income of AASI. If membership falls, so does the ambulance service that Acadians can hardly do without now.

Membership applications are being received at area banks and through the mail. The drive extends through September 1 and, as we have done from the very beginning, we give our unqualified endorsement to Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. in their vital quest for membership.