**Government, Hospital Leaders Issue Support Of Ambulance Service**

The Mayor of Lafayette, the President of a Parish Police Jury, and the administrators of the parish's three major medical centers joined today in urging support of the Acadian Ambulance Service membership drive, which ends Friday.

Mayor Dale Lastrapes said the community is fortunate to have this kind of service without the severe tax burden which some municipalities have had to impose in order to avoid similar protections.

"This is a private venture in the finest tradition of free enterprise. Local government is happy to support it, and pleased that all people are given such excellent service.

"It is also rewarding to see the community so closely united in support of the campaign. Hundreds of people work unselfishly to see that this life-saving service is maintained for the good of all our citizens.

Louis Roth, president of the Lafayette Parish Police Jury, said his association with other officials of other areas indicates that parish governing bodies throughout the area share his support of the membership program. Other Police Jury officials share the appreciation that we have in Lafayette parish," he said.

Roth said the membership program with a one-year fee "greatly benefits our people."

"In other parts of the state and nation, people pay large fees every time they need an ambulance. In Dallas, for instance, every call costs a minimum of $75. Our people who become members of Acadian pay only $42 for the year, and the entire family has the use of the ambulances for emergencies within the parish as often as necessary, without a lot of additional high charges."

The hospital administrators: J.J. Burdin, Lafayette General; Gary Pontoise, University Medical Center; and David Usher, Vice-President of Ancillary Services at Our Lady of Loursdes Regional Medical Center, cited the close cooperation between the ambulance service and the medical community.

In a joint statement, the hospital officials said "The work of the medics at the scene and en route to the hospital greatly enhances our chances of saving lives in cases of severe injury or illness."

"We have been pleased that, in addition to their own excellent training program, Acadian personnel have shown an eagerness to further their life-saving skills by working closely with our emergency room personnel. There is an excellent working relationship between our people and the Acadian Ambulance medics. All this means that the health and safety of the people of Lafayette and the surrounding areas are greatly enhanced."

**Support**

- Hospital officials: David Usher, J.J. Burdin and Gary Pontoise, Lafayette Police Jury President Louis Roth join Acadiana Ambulance secretary-treasurer Richard C. Zuschlag to promote the ambulance service's campaign drive.

---

*Daily Advertiser* Sept. 1, 1982