Meeting of Acadia Parish Group on CODOFIL Set

Chapter Formation to Be Discussed

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

RAYNE, La. — Louisiana's movement to preserve and expand her French language, heritage and culture moves into Acadia Parish Monday with a meeting of parish leaders who will discuss the formation of an Acadia Parish Chapter of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL).

One person from each ward in the parish has been invited to attend this preliminary meeting, which will be held here at 4 p.m., according to CODOFIL state chairman James Domengeaux. An organizational meeting for the general public will be held in November, he said.

"We must go to the grassroots level to save the French language. Parish chapters of CODOFIL are the most effective vehicle to do this," Domengeaux said, expressing hope that as many as 3,000 Acadia Parish residents will join the soon-to-be-formed chapter.

The current level of the use of French in Louisiana is a base on which to build a true English-French bilingualism, he said.

Parish CODOFIL chapters are established to work with the state CODOFIL organization in the development of the various French programs, such as early French education in schools, exchange of students with French-speaking countries and encouragement of tourism, Domengeaux said.

Other parish CODOFIL chapters have been founded in the parishes of Evangeline, St. Martin, Iberia, Lafayette, Orleans, Jefferson Davis and Lafourche, Domengeaux noted, adding that CODOFIL intends to establish chapters in each of Louisiana's 64 parishes.