Acadiana Organization Picks Outstanding Citizen

ABREVILLE — Dr. Thomas Atenasius, designer of the Louisiana Acadian flag and a long-time leader in the state's French movement, was honored as the recipient of the Outstanding Citizen of Acadiana during the annual meeting of the International Association of Acadians (TIRA) in the state capital. He seeks to use the flag to promote the Accadian heritage. He has dedicated his life to the promotion of the French-speaking culture.

Members have heard a report of TIRA sponsored missions to Belgium and France. Another project advertised during this was a hospitality program in cooperation with the French Consul. It was also reported that TIRA membership has grown to over 700 members.

A. C. Stuaire of Carencro was elected as president at the meeting in McIvorville. He is the first woman to hold this association ever. Other officers and board members chosen to serve are Darryl Berard, secretary; Ernest Lechten, president-elect; J.P. Theriot, New Beres, first vice-president; B.B. Lechten, secretary; and Will L. Boudreaux of Rapides, secretary.

Board members are Mary Ann and Elise Crisler. City Charmer, Mr. Delilah, and Ophelia, Edna Barlett, Lillian Mandeville, and Vivian Schexnayder and N.B. Lechten of Louisiana. B.P. Lafleur, Bob Thibodeaux, Alphonse, and Charles Boudreaux of Lafayette, secretary; and Robert Boudreaux of the Acadian heritage. Theriot is the son of the late Rev. Theriot, an early exponent of the French culture and language, and founder of the annual Cajun breakfast and the Louisiana French Community. Provenance of Acadians from Nova Scotia.

Oustanding Citizen — Dr. Thomas Atenasius, left, TIRA Outstanding Citizen, receives a Robert Dafford print of the Acadiana. Chester Martin, right.