**CODOFIL Executive Committee Meeting**

August 27, 2014

2:30 p.m.

Office of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

Capitol Annex Building

1201 North Third Street (4th Floor)

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**MINUTES**

Present: Dr. William Arceneaux Jacqueline Labat

 Charles Larroque Nicole Boudreaux

 Jean-Robert Frigault David Marcantel

 Jennifer Rodriguez Rachel Decuir

 Grégor Trumel (new CG de France) Christian Goudeau

 Raymond Hinz (new Attaché) Dana Kress

 Philippe Aldon Tom Klingler

 Terri Hammatt

W. Arceneaux began the meeting by welcoming everyone present, before introducing the new Consul General of France, Mr. Gregor Trumel. G. Trumel expressed how truly happy and touched he is to be in Louisiana, given his interest in Louisiana from an early age. He is certain that we will all work well together and he thanked everyone for the warm welcome. He thanked C. Goudeau and P. Aldon for their work here, followed by introduction of Raymond Hinz.

C. Larroque expressed his delight in seeing young people in diplomacy and also welcomed G. Trumel and R. Hinz. C. Larroque then distributed the budget. Discussion arose about how the school districts receive MFP funds. The foreign associated teachers and the Escadrille teachers now come with $21,000 instead of $20,000. The School Boards that sign the paperwork agree that the $1,000 goes directly to CODOFIL. The School Boards that do not sign must remit the $1,000 later to CODOFIL. C. Larroque pointed out that funding would have to be routed through CRT and that can become tricky. Since this is the first year that we are dealing with the additional $1,000, we simply need to have patience and work out the issues. Since no visa fees are incurred for the Escadrille teachers, the $1,000 for those teachers belongs to the school district instead of CODOFIL. By the beginning of October, CODOFIL should know how much it will receive from the $175,000. We are close to 300 teachers, but we are not at that mark. T. Hammatt commented that with LDOE and CODOFIL working together, our program will be even stronger.

As for CODOFIL staffing, JR Frigault will soon be full time. We are waiting to hire Communications employee who will hopefully be hired in one week from now. C. Larroque spoke about the French Language Services Act and that Pam Breaux sent a letter to all State employees. He went on to say that we need to celebrate everyone who speaks French and announces it in their workplace. C. Goudeau suggested that French-speaking State employees could earn more money. He also suggested a future mandate which would allow for Francophone State employees being among the last to be laid off when layoffs are taking place. There needs to be an explanation of why the Language Service Act is so crucial (enhances their job opportunities). R. Decuir suggested awarding these people with a small, inexpensive gift such as a larger version of a place card for their desk. The place card could have the State seal on it and proudly display that this person speaks French. Several members expressed their approval of this idea. C. Goudeau suggested giving them a smaller version of the cards that CODOFIL had stating, “*Ici on est fier* *de parler français*.”

C. Larroque spoke about the activity, interest and pride in Avoyelles Parish which is where we are beginning/piloting the French Language Services Act. This will be articulated to *Franco-Responsable* initiative as well. Also, LSU-Alexandria representatives are always present at the CODOFIL/Avoyelles Chapter meetings. We have decided to condense all the mandates into one area for the “best bang for the buck.” We are giving the people in Avoyelles Parish permission to create their own Francophone space. Bilingual signage is part of this. We are also working with the Council on Aging. C. Larroque also spoke about applying the 12% rule (re: harvesting of alligator hatchlings) to Francophones and French Immersion. Hopefully, people will see the need to create a workforce emphasizing French. The military ties into all of this.

C. Goudeau asked how far along we are with our approach in Avoyelles Parish. C. Larroque replied that the bundling approach has gone over well and the people there get it. They already have 5 task forces in place (Bilingual Signage, French Language Service Act, Council on Aging, 5 à 7 and they want a French Table). He also asked if we should hold back with going to Rapides Parish until we are certain about how our bundling of mandates works in Avoyelles Parish. C. Larroque’s personal perspective is that “one size does not fit all” and that we need to create individual profiles with their strengths/weaknesses, what they are looking for, their education system, their taxes and their history. We need to tailor the program for each parish according to its needs.

The discussion then turned to an immersion brochure. D. Marcantel asked if CODOFIL has an immersion brochure. T. Hammatt commented that we have information, but we need a guide. She mentioned the guide used in Manitoba and that we have their permission to use it as a model for our own guide. W. Arceneaux stated that this is a good project for *La Fondation Louisiane* so there is no need to worry about printing costs.

C. Larroque distributed a copy of the FY15 goals and briefly discussed each one. The CODOFIL Board will welcome 2 new members representing the Creole community (Clay Schexnayder’s resolution was mentioned). One of them will be a representative of Creole Inc. and the other one will represent the African American Museum in St. Martinville. These two new members will replace 1 legislative member and 1 AATF member. This will go into effect with the election of the new Governor. C. Goudeau expressed his concern about learning of this now and not before. He is all for it, but feels that the Executive Committee should know about these types of issues beforehand.

C. Larroque spoke about the importance of French Immersion leading into career paths, especially for New Orleans with the upcoming Tricentennial. He briefly spoke about the Lycée Français situation and its image issues. C. Larroque informed everyone of Jane Batty and her assumption that the Lycée Français is utilizing CODOFIL funds (which is actually MFP funds) to attempt to purchase an old school building. C. Larroque confirmed that he was able to quell her anger and assure her that the Lycée Français is not being funded by CODOFIL.

C. Larroque will be on vacation from September 6-20. While in Quebec, he will meet with Denis Degagné on September 8. C. Larroque mentioned that he heard talk of reopening the Bureau du Québec in Lafayette and CFA wants to broker that. He will also meet with Guy Paradis to discuss the scholarship that the Centre Linguistique du Collège de Joncquière will award at the next ALCFES Convention. Guy Paradis, as well as the French and the Belgians, want reciprocity.

There was discussion about becoming a member of the OIF. To be a member, we need to be linked to 5 things, TV5 being one of them. C. Goudeau mentioned that there are contractual issues with TV5 that will end in 2 years.

While in Canada, W. Arceneaux met Mrs. Louise Lafrance, the new Director of International Relations for Québec, and they spoke about opening a Quebec office in Louisiana. He met the Premier of New Brunswick and they spoke about this as well. It is in discussion. New Brunswick has relations of an economic nature with Georgia, Alabama and Florida. What about with Louisiana? W. Arceneaux will write letters to these two people to confirm their discussions.

As for the Escadrille program, when the participants return from France, they have earned 18 hours toward their Masters. W. Arceneaux wants to amend the program so that the participants have another 3-week stay at Centenary College upon their return from France. This would give them 24 hours toward their Masters degree and it would help motivate them to continue the program. Escadrille currently costs $8,000 per participant; he wants to increase the amount to $10,000 per participant to accomplish the aforementioned. R. Decuir responded that she does not feel that she is in a position to make a motion on this issue due to lack of more information about it and without knowing what the program’s future will be like. She suggested considering this amendment for 1 year and then evaluating progress at that time. The majority of the members present approved this amendment with this condition.

W. Arceneaux stated that he has had contact with Dr. Joseph Savoie, President of UL-Lafayette, concerning the idea of having an Escadrille program at UL-Lafayette. W. Arceneaux requested approval to move forward with plans for a domestic Escadrille. The majority approved this as well.

The meeting was then adjourned.