

International Relations

By: Sue Collins, Chairperson

The board meeting took on an international flavor this August in New York. Several of our international friends and members were in New York to attend a meeting of the United Nations. We were privileged to have the presence of the International Union's President, Jacques Isnard; Vice-President, Luc Claes; and board member, Andre Mathieu. These gentlemen joined the board for dinner Saturday evening, where they met our members in attendance and gathered information on our activities here in the United States.

Jacques and Luc stayed in the country for the following week. They were on a mission: To learn the difference between process servers, sheriffs and constables. To accomplish this daunting task, we had prearranged a non-stop itinerary for them. After their meeting at the United Nations in New York, Luc and Jacques proceeded to Philadelphia to visit the office of our president, Fred Blum. Fred took them through his office procedures and paperwork explaining the different duties and authority that he maintains in Philadelphia. Fred had arranged to have Jacques and Luc meet with the sheriff in Philadelphia the following day. They were taken on a tour of the sheriff's office, where our guests observed their procedures and paperwork. This was followed by an interview with the head clerk of the court.

During their visit to Philadelphia, Jacques and Luc received an unexpected surprise. Fred called the Justice Department in Washington and arranged for an impromptu meeting with the Central Authority. This meeting presented a wonderful opportunity to allow the Union to see this office of the Justice Department and discuss their procedures.

Jacques and Luc then traveled to Boston to the Constable's Office of Butler and Witten, where they were presented with badges and appointed Honorary Constables. Joe Butler and his staff allowed their visitors to "ride along" as they levied on an Execution for Possession. This is the actual eviction procedure where defendants and their property are physically removed from particular premises identified in a court order. Jacques and Luc were also allowed to examine the paperwork and procedures of a constable's office and compare their findings to what they had learned in Philadelphia. They were pleasantly surprised to learn that constables handle enforcement issues here in much the same way the Huissiers de Justice do in Europe.

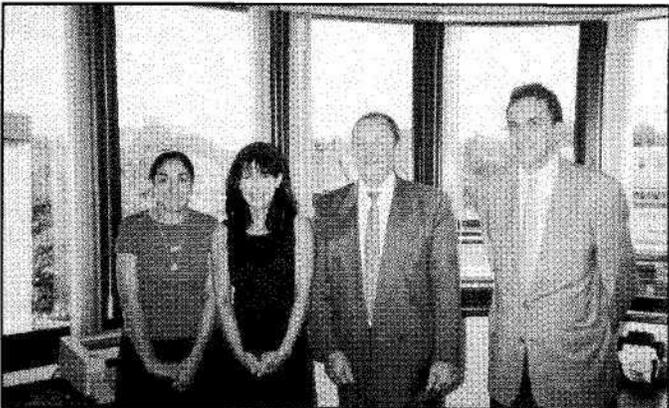
It is the intent of Jacques to write a detailed report for the worldwide membership of the International Union on the procedures they learned about in the United States. In fact, much of his report was completed before they returned home. Although Jacques and Luc were only able to scratch the surface of our procedures here in the U.S., I believe they left with a much better understanding of a very complicated system. It was a great privilege to have these important visitors here with us.



L-R: Luc Claes, Jacques Isnard, Fred Blum & Prothonotary of Philadelphia (*Clerk of Court*) Joseph Evers



L-R: Joe Butler, Jacques Isnard and Luc Claes in the offices of Butler and Witten



L-R: Butler & Witten Admin. Asst. Debbie Apar, Office Mgr. Marianne Abany, Jacques Isnard & Luc Claes



L-R: Jacques Isnard & Luc Claes at the White House

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