

Editor's note : The author, Michele Paquette, has been an active NAPPS Member since 1995. In addition, she is a Huissier de Justice (French for Bailiff of Justice) in Montreal, Province of Quebec, Canada. Further, Michele is an Appointed Delegate to the Union International Huissiers de Justice. This report of our annual convention, written in French, recently appeared in the UIHJ's news magazine. Michele, who speaks eight languages, has been kind enough to translate it into English for our readers.

FLASH BACK ON CHICAGO

**By Michele Paquette, h.j.,
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The annual meeting of NAPPS was held this year in Chicago, the largest city in Illinois and the seat of Cook County with approximately 3 million inhabitants. The 17th annual congress of NAPPS was held at the Wyndham Hotel of Itasca from April 29th to May 2nd. Itasca is located at approximately 40 miles of the center of Chicago, which is directly built on the lake front and stretches for 22 miles along the southwestern shore of Lake Michigan. Did you know that the first white men known to have visited Chicago were Louis Joliet and Jacques Marquette in 1673? The first permanent white settler in the area was John Kinzie, sometimes called the Father of Chicago, who took over a trading post in 1796 that had been established in 1791 by Jean-Baptiste Point du Sable, a French-speaking black fur trapper. The name Chicago is believed to come from the Algonquian Indian word "Chicagou" meaning "strong" or "powerful." Some early Frenchmen believed that the name was derived from the Algonquian word for "onion place" because wild onions grew there. Chicago was incorporated as a village in 1833 and as a city in 1837. Thirty-four years later it was destroyed in the great Chicago fire of 1871. In the thirties, the well known gangster Al Capone left his mark...and the legend lives on.

Today, Chicago is a major Great Lakes port and the commercial, financial, industrial, and cultural center of the Midwest. The manufacturing industries dominate the wholesale and retail trade, and trade in agricultural commodities is important to the economy.

But, when we speak about economy, there is

also the legal economy, which we must not neglect.

Several seminars took place during these two days of congress and in particular centered on the search for individuals, the use of the Internet service and publicity, a considerable element of economy and particularly targeted and very specialized in America, but practically unknown in the European countries. The Administrator, Alan Crowe, forever devoted to the cause of the American process-servers also gave a very interesting speech on professionalism.

There were also the fellow NAPPS and UIHJ members Luc Claes and Andre Mathieu, who were invited to be speakers to this annual meeting.

Since the Union preserves very close links with this significant American Association, it was important to explain the role which the UIHJ plays in the world and in particular the aspect of services abroad. Member Luc Claes specified first that our International Association was founded in 1952 on the initiative of France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy and Switzerland (Geneva) at the first International Congress held in Paris, on June 28, 1952. The Congress was initiated by the French National Chamber of Bailiffs of justice. The idea to form an International Association was born after the World War II and the operational exchanges between bailiffs from France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

In 1955, the International Union was admitted at the level of non-governmental organizations (ONG) as a member with consultative

status of the European Council at Strasbourg. In 1960 the International Association participated at the Hague Convention has a privileged partner. Today, the International Association is also a member with consultative status in ECOSOC of the United Nations in New-York.

Currently there are nearly 50 countries with bailiff Corporations who are members or members with observer status in the International Union. Liability is provided by bailiffs associations members, members with observer status bailiffs associations. The official language of the Association is French and at every international congress, translations are also done in English and several other languages, depending in which country the congress is held. Several documents from the congress are also translated in several languages, primarily in English. The next international meeting will be held in Athena, Greece in May 2000.

Some of the major goals are:

- The comparative study and understanding of the legislation relevant to each corporation of Bailiffs;
- The dissemination of ideas, studies, projects and initiatives leading to progress the elevation, the promotion and the liberal status of the profession along with the development of competent qualities and responsibilities of professionals who do not possess this expertise;
- The creation, organization and management of all services necessary to assure the liaison among bailiffs of other countries, notably concerning the recovery of debt and the service abroad of legal process, judicial or any extra-judicial documents;
- Aid on the code of conduct and educational assistance for nations which request assistance and to extend aid to the social and professional levels that exist in democratic societies;
- The exchange of ideas through the contribution of knowledge bailiffs on specific aspects of legislation relevant to other nations such as an international judicial order, etc..
- Recognized by several governments, it wishes to extend its action in all the geographical areas of the planet. In all the nations claiming a democratic structure, a bailiff de justice, a ufficiale giudiziario, a gerichtsvollzieher, or a process-server is charged with the introduction of,

or the service of any judicial or extra-judicial document or even to put in application the "imperium" contain in the judge decision.

- Each professional of any nationality and its way of proceeding, pursues the same finality, that is to achieve the general will of people, which the courts should express.
- According to the statute of these professional, the result, spend more or less time to be concretize, and the action carried out to arrive with an harmonization could be different depending of the characteristic of each mentality.

Thus, as an example the fellow-member Luc Claes invited the permanent secretary of Americas within the UIHJ to address the NAPPS audience.

The fellow member Andre Mathieu forwarded the fact that during several years, Bailiffs of justice in Quebec were hoping to obtain a certain autonomy and to become self regulated. Therefore, the bailiffs practicing in Quebec sought some reforms within the bailiffs act similar to what they knew from their European counterparts. However, the Quebec Government always kept them from reaching their goal. Bailiffs persisted by giving several courses to their members and to act in the manner of a professional corporation. Consequently, in order to demonstrate their seriousness to the Government, our "bona fide" association at that time decided to organize in 1985 an international congress of Bailiffs that was held in Montreal. In 1989, only 4 years after that congress, the bailiffs of Quebec became ensure of the integration of the "acte de constat" (official statement of facts) included in their statutes of the bailiffs act.

During the years that followed the amendment to this new statute, they continued to keep their members informed of new laws and involved themselves in several meetings with the justice department while giving courses to new trainees and to assert it constantly towards what, they wished to be directed. In a parallel way, the "Chambre des Huissiers de justice du Quebec" continued having its membership with the Union and ensured a representativeness at all international counsel meetings and congress. Without any doubt, this element became certainly significant in Quebec's decision to recognize our Chamber of Bailiffs as a National and self-controlled Corporation in October

1995, were it obtained its letter of nobility. It became the 43rd professional Corporation to be part of the professional system in Quebec.

Summarily, our two colleagues of the Union reflected the emphasis on the membership of this worldwide Association which can positively influence the decisional authorities validly and also by raising the actors of the economic life individually.

In a world where universalization is present overall, it is thus important to seek to harmonize certain rules, in particular within the framework of the exchanges of procedures which are thus daily transmitted throughout the world.

Therefore, the results of the International Union was so convincing in several countries, helped out by a common will, first by the professionals themselves and then by having on our side the political institutions wishing to make a quick success with the suggested projects throughout the meetings and international seminars done by the Union.

Also, to follow in the result of its several meetings, the Union bring together those specialized experts in the legal framework and so as to encourage various countries to assist within these forums with all seminars that could bring some changes, ideas or orientation which allow the "free exchange" like the United States of America that are almost everywhere on the planet. Therefore, we hope promptly to have all possibility for a standardization of those professionals implied in this particular sphere that is the service abroad of world wide judicial documents.

The Union is also proud that several members in attendance assisted to the re-election of President Sue Collins at that 17th seminar of NAPPS and wishes all success to her board of administrators for the year coming.

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If you have questions about the proper service of process in the Province of Quebec, Michele and her staff will be happy to assist you.



From L to R: The Author: Michele Paquette of Montreal, PQ, Jacques Gielen of Brussels, Belgium, Andre Mathieu of Montreal, PQ, NAPPS Administrator Alan H. Crowe, Luc Claes of Brussels, Belgium and NAPPS President Sue Collins. Both Mathieu and Claes are holding Certificates of Appreciation which were presented by NAPPS in honor of their speaking at the 17th Annual Convention in Chicago. Photo by: Gary Crowe

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