

GOP delegate belies gray flannel suit image

By Tim Richard
staff writer

One of Nanig Manoukian's first experiences in the United States in 1956 was watching national political conventions on television.

"I watched both," said the Farmington Hills political activist who was

born in Lebanon of Armenian parents. "I became a Republican because they spoke my language."

Last weekend Republicans in 18th Congressional District caucus picked her as a delegate to the GOP National Convention in Dallas Aug. 20-23. One of 77 delegates and 77 alternates, she will have the largely ceremonial function of

helping renominate incumbents Ronald Reagan and George Bush for president and vice president of her adopted country.

MANY OF THE delegate slots, filled during last weekend's state convention in Grand Rapids, went to high party leaders such as state GOP Chairman Spencer Abraham, fund-raiser Max Fisher of Franklin Village and former Gov. William G. Milliken.

But party officials were quick to point out that many other slots went to the Nanig Manoukian kind of work-horses who field the votes.

"It was flattering to me. I had opposition, but I won by a landslide," she said.

"Last year I was phone center chairman in Farmington Hills. For each phone, he had a quota of 100 calls a day. We had three phones and made

500 calls a day instead of the quota of 300.

"We had the highest performance in the state. Altogether we had 120 volunteers."

The wife of Berj Manoukian, a Ford Motor Co. engineer, she is mother of twin daughters and a son, and considers politics her full-time job. Active in the party since 1960, she worked on Richard Headlee's successful 1983 gubernatorial primary and in city council campaigns.

In her latest post — chairman of organizational work — she oversees 400 precinct delegates.

"THE 18TH District has more people attending the national convention than any district in the state," said Headlee, a Farmington Hills insurance executive and at-large delegate.

Others on the slate of 23 at-large delegates were Headlee; John Gnau,

Bloomfield Township businessman, county road commission member and top Reagan strategist; and Ronna Romney, daughter-in-law of the former governor and new national committee-woman.

Besides Manoukian, the 18th District, which includes the largest portion of Oakland County, picked Chairman Alan May of Bloomfield Township and County Executive Daniel T. Murphy as delegates.

Alternates from the 18th are Yvonne

Strother, Stephen Bruce and Dallas Haun.

The 17th District, which straddles the Wayne-Oakland line, chose as its three delegates: Gerald Rosen, district chairman, 1982 congressional candidate and a Detroit lawyer; Alice Schoenholtz, former Royal Oak city commissioner; and Margaret Small, longtime party worker from Detroit.

Alternates are Bill Clark of Inkster, Robert Rushing of Royal Oak and Patrick Pereira of Berkley.



staff photo

Nanig Manoukian, a precinct worker, and Richard Headlee, the 1982 Republican gubernatorial candidate, will be delegates to the 1984 Republican National Convention in Dallas. The two Farmington Hills residents were elected at last weekend's state convention in Grand Rapids.

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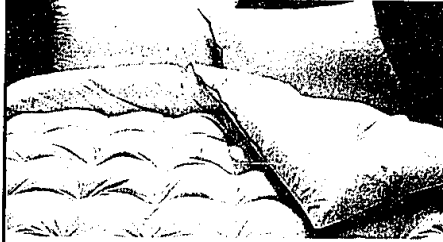
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