



Alex Manoogian Declared AGBU President for Life

In conformity with the recommendation of the 57th General Assembly of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Mr. Alex Manoogian was declared President for Life of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, at the Plenary Meeting of the Central Board of Directors, which was held on February 8 at the AGBU Center, New York.

The declaration of the Central Board was made immediately upon Mr. Manoogian's pronouncement to the effect that in consideration of the unusually strong public reaction, both within and outside AGBU circles, against his decision to retire from the presidency of the Benevolent Union, he felt compelled to reconsider his decision and was ready to continue to serve as president, despite his wish to retire.

Mr. Manoogian's statement was received with great satisfaction and relief by his colleagues of the Central Board and is certain to be greeted with joy by AGBU leaders and members everywhere.

The basis for the action of the Central Board in according life presidency to Mr. Manoogian rested on the unanimous decision of the General Assembly, which not only had refused to

accept his resignation, on the contrary, had directed the Central Board to declare Alex Manoogian President for Life.

The unprecedented avalanche of letters and telegrams from AGBU executive bodies throughout the world and individual messages, including one from His Holiness Vasken I Catholicos of All Armenians, which paid tribute to his highly competent and devoted seventeen year leadership, stressed his indispensability to the Benevolent Union and urged him to reconsider his decision. Combined with the similarly unanimous voice of the Armenian press, the reaction proved too compelling for Mr. Manoogian not to heed.

There have been two precedents of life tenure for AGBU presidents — Boghos Nubar and Arshag Karagheusian. In the latter instance, however, life presidency was an honorary title, which freed Mr. Karagheusian from the responsibility of exercising the active leadership of the Union, as advised by his physicians.

In the capacity of President for life, Mr. Manoogian will retain all the authority and prerogatives of the office.

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Հ. Բ. Ը. Միութեան 57րդ Ընդհանուր ժողովին Նախագահ տիար Ա. Մանուկեանի արտասանած փակման խօսքը, որուն մէջ ան կը յայտնէր իր որոշումը 1971էն սկսեալ չստանձնելու Միութեան նախագահութիւնը, խոր յուզումի եւ անդոհանքի մատնեց Միութեան ղեկավարութիւնը, անդամակցութիւնը եւ Հայաշխարհը:

Տիար Ա. Մանուկեանի նախագահութիւնը Միութեան եւ ազգին համար էանդիսացաւ Հայ Արտին տրոփը կրող եւ Հայ Մաքին շողերով գեղապայծառ ծրագրումի, բարեգործութեան, շինարարութեան եւ առաջնորդութեան 17 սարկներու բացատրիկ շրջան մը: Կարելի չէր, հետեւաբար, հաշտուիլ իր ներկայութեան իսկ Միութեան ղեկէն զինք հեռացած տեսնելու գաղափարին հետ:

Աղետաբեր որոշում մըն էր, որուն ի լուր՝ մամուլ, կազմակերպութիւններ, մարմիններ, ակամաօր դէմքեր, անդամներ քէ խոնարհ ազգայիններ՝ աշխարհի չորս ծագերէն, խմբագրականներով, ամսակներով, հեռագրով եւ հեռաձայնային հաղորդակցութեամբ, որունց քիւր հարիւրներու կը հասնի, համահայկական հոգեշարժ ցոյցով մը խնդրեցին Նախագահէն ետ առնել իր որոշումը:

Որքան խոր էր մէյ արտաբերկումը շուրջ երկու ամիս առաջ, նոյնքան անկարագրելի է մեր բերկրամբը այսօր երբ կը փութանք աւետելու հանրութեան, քէ Նախագահ տիար Ա. Մանուկեան՝ պատ. Կեդրոնական վարչական ժողովի Փետրուար 9ի նիստին մէջ յայտնեց, որ անկեղծութեամբ քաքաւուն խնդրանքները հարկադրեք էին զինք վերաճննելու իր որոշումը, հակառակ հանգստեան կոչուելու իր բուն փափաքին:

Ժողովը մեծ ուրախութեամբ դիմաւորեց Նախագահին յայտարարութիւնը եւ ընթացք տալով 57րդ Ընդհանուր ժողովի յանձնարարութեան, զինք հոչակեց Կեդրոնական վարչական ժողովի ՅԿՆԱՆՍ ԱՆԴԱՄ եւ Հ. Բ. Ը. ՄԻՈՒԹԵԱՆ ՅԿՆԱՆՍ ՆԱԽԱԳԱՀ:

Նախագահին վերանորոգ յանձնառութիւնը նոր եւ խոշոր գոհողութիւն մըն է անկասկած իր կողմէ. գոր Միութեան անդամակցութիւնը մասնաօրաբար եւ հայ ժողովուրդը ընդհանրապէս երախտագիտութեամբ պիտի յիշեն միշտ:

Հիմա որ փարատած է մեր վրայ ննչող տխրութիւնը, քաղցր պարտականութիւն կը զգանք սրտագին շնորհակալութիւն յայտնելու Ամենայն Հայոց Կաթողիկոս Ն. Ս. Օ. Տ. Տ. վազգէն Ա.ին, Միութեան Յանձնաժողովներուն եւ Մասնաժողովներուն, ազգային եւ մշակութային կազմակերպութեանց, Հայ Մամուլի այն անդամներուն եւ այն ազգայիններուն, որոնց համակրանքի սրտագրաւ արտայայտութիւնները մեծ չափով նպաստեցին Նախագահ տիար Ա. Մանուկեանը ցվերջ ի գլուխ Հ. Բ. Ը. Միութեան ունենալու մեր բուն ցանկութեան իրագործումին:

ԳԻՒԱՆ ԿԵԴՐ. ՎԱՐՉ. ԺՈՂՈՎԻ

Երեւոյն, Փետրուար 12, 1971

Statement by the Central Board of Directors

The closing statement which Mr. Alex Manoogian, President of the Armenian General Benevolent Union made at the 57th General Assembly of the Armenian General Benevolent Union relative to his decision not to accept the presidency of the Union, beginning 1971, was received with deep concern and anxiety by the leaders and members of the Union everywhere.

Mr. Manoogian's presidency has proved for our nation an extraordinary period of seventeen years of philanthropy and constructive leadership which had the throb of an Armenian heart and was planned with the luminosity of Armenian mind. It was, therefore, impossible to reconcile with the idea of his detachment from the helm of the Union.

It was a calamitous decision which when made, at once the press, organizations, members, prominent and less prominent persons, by letter, telephone and telegram — nearly one hundred of them — in a moving nationwide demonstration, pleaded that the President withdraw his decision.

Today our joy is as boundless as was our discouragement two months ago, as we hasten to announce that at the Plenary Meeting of the Central Board of Directors on February 8, President Alex Manoogian informed that the many sincere requests had compelled him to reconsider his decision, contrary to his strong wish to retire.

The Meeting gladly received the President's announcement and in keeping with the recommendation of the 57th General Assembly, declared him President for life of the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

The President's renewed assumption of responsibility doubtless is another great sacrifice, which the membership in particular, and the Armenian people in general, will remember with gratitude.

Now that the sadness which pressed on us has dissipated, it is our pleasant duty to express our heartfelt thanks to His Holiness Vazken I Catholicos of All Armenians, as well as to the Central and District Committees, Chapters and national and cultural organization as well as to individuals whose touching expressions of affection were very helpful in the realization of our strong wish to see Mr. Manoogian at the head of the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February 12, 1971

+ *St. John's Armenian Church*
MEN'S SOCIETY

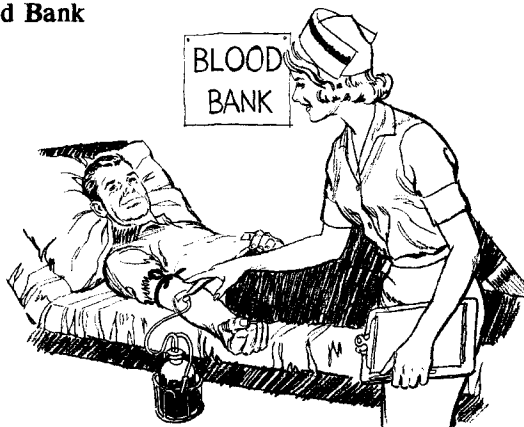


February Activities

February was the month of fellowship for the Men's Society. On February 9, 1971 a dinner honoring the Parish Council members and their wives was planned and organized in cooperation with the ACYOA Sr. A splendid turn out enjoyed a delicious shish-kebab dinner, prepared by Marty Hatcherian, Men's Society dinner chairman, and his committee, John Mason, Henry Nazarian, and Ed Jizmejian. A combined short meeting by both organizations was the order of the day, followed by socializing of the members after the meeting.

At the February Meeting, Charles Takessian reported 91 paid members for the year 1970. His efforts in bringing up to date many past due members have been reflected by the biggest membership total since the Men's Society started in 1961.

Blood Bank



April 5, Monday, 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. was the date this year of our annual Blood Bank Mobil Unit to arrive at the Church. If you did not give last year, we hope you gave this year. You must give every year to protect your family. As you know everyone over 59 years of age, and a member of St. John's Armenian Church is automatically protected by the Blood Bank. Contact the following members of the bank to renew your pledge: Jack Kazanjian, Nick Mikaelian, Jack Kezelian, Art Boudakian, and Dick Tafraian.

Trip Planned

The next trip planned is for 3 weeks with stays in Istanbul, Turkey, Beirut, Lebanon, Yerevan, Armenia, and Athens, Greece. The trip will start in Detroit and also in New York. Departure date is September 30, and return, October 21st. Watch for posted information or contact Jack Kazanjian or trip chairman, Alex Chavdarian.

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*Ladies' Auxiliary
St. John's Armenian Church*



Vartanantz and Baregentan Celebration

The popular celebration of combined Feasts of Vartanantz and Baregentan was observed with a dinner program on Sunday evening at the Armenian Cultural Building sponsored by the Ladies' Auxiliary, presided by His Grace Archbishop Sion Manoogian with the clergy in attendance.

After the dinner a concise program was preached. Garo Yeghissian was Master-of-Cermonies. Mrs. Harriet Demirjian sang a few songs with the accompaniment of Mrs. Alice Haidostian. Fr. Diran Papazian led group singing of some well-known Armenian national songs. The main speaker of the day was Archbishop Sion. The general chairman of the day was Mrs. Mary Demirjian; co-chairmen, Mrs. Serpouhie Jizmejian and Mrs. Vartouhie Kralian, Mrs. Lousadzin Kazanjian, chairman of the Ladies' Auxiliary, participated in the program with a welcoming address. A special committee, in conjunction with the executive board members, helped in all phases of the celebration.

The celebration ended with Der Getzo sung by Der Hayr and with benediction pronounced by Sion Surpazan.

Some 300 people participated and enjoyed the celebration. Following the program drawing of lot was conducted.