

Hickory International Council
Thursday, February 19, 2015; 5:30 pm

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at 5:30 pm in the Moretz Board Room at the Arts & Science Center of Catawba Valley.

Members Present: Hani Nassar, Ken Humphreys, Marion Love, Jack Crawford, Toshiaki Satake, and Karl Wolfe

Members Absent: Marc Swinnen, Alex Mezei, Michael Kuchinsky and Becky Mich

Guests Present: Gretchen Oetting, Revae Bostwick, Masauki Murakali, Alberio Grimaldo, Wini Bradley and Maria Jose Daily

Staff Present: Minutes Clerk Anne Starnes

A quorum was present.

Call to Order: Hani Nassar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm and welcomed everyone present.

Introduction of Guests and BSA-IYC Members: All guests attending and the four BSA International Youth Council members introduced themselves.

Board Membership Changes: Gretchen Oetting said she is interested in becoming a HIC member, and Mr. Nassar explained the process necessary for her to join. Maria Jose Daily said she was formerly a HIC member, but moved away. She is now living in Hickory again, and is interested in rejoining the HIC.

Approval of January 15, 2015 Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed in advance. Ken Humphreys moved, seconded by Karl Wolfe, to approve the January 2015 minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

HIC Grant Awards – Mr. Nassar said two \$500 award checks were prepared for the 2014 HIC Grant recipients selected this year. Both recipients are from Newton-Conover City Schools (NCCS), Brian Smith and Revae Bostwick. Mr. Smith received his check last week, and Ms. Bostwick will receive her check tonight.

Ms. Bostwick explained that her grant project concerns the Steve McCurry photography exhibition coming to Hickory Museum of Art later this year. She said the grant would provide funds for NCCS student field trips to observe the exhibit. She also plans to work on a cultural awareness campaign, aimed at informing their students of the cultures represented in the photos. She said she would develop teacher resources for her system's teachers, and offered to share them with interested teachers from other schools.

Mr. Nassar shared some of Mr. McCurry's exhibit photos. Mr. Crawford suggested that he show members all of the photos at the next HIC meeting.

Marion Love said Lisse Swenson, Executive Director of the Hickory Museum of Art (HMA), had recently contacted her and Mr. Nassar to discuss the exhibit. Ms. Swenson told them she plans to model the exhibit along the lines of the "Torn from Home: My Life as a Refugee" exhibit, held at HMA a few years ago, which Dr. Love had helped to stage. She said the local Camera Club is sponsoring the exhibit,

and HMA staff plans to reach out to all public schools and home schooled students across the county, as well as college students.

Dr. Love said HMA requested the HIC assist with parallel programming during the exhibit, such as arranging speakers to discuss sociological issues or other elements, and provide outreach to schools. She plans to e-mail a flyer to members, proposing different options for working together, as being discussed by the HMA and HIC. She said no decisions have been made yet, but would be soon. Dr. Love noted that students attending the International Film Festival for Children in the spring would be a good audience to share information with regarding the McCurry exhibit at HMA.

A check presentation ceremony was held, with photos taken of Ms. Bostwick and HIC members. Mr. Nassar will post the photos on the HIC website and send them to the press.

BSA-IYC Update – Jack Crawford reported on the BSA International Youth Council (IYC). At their meeting tonight, students from Hibriten High School in Caldwell County will visit to discuss parliamentary procedure, as well as the Model UN schedule. He said at least one more meeting would be held with the advisor at Hickory High School (HHS). The first meeting at HHS was held during exams; Mr. Crawford said seven students attended, but none currently involved in the IYC group now meeting at the Arts & Science Center.

Open World Program Update – Mr. Nassar said the Open World Program is a Rotary International program. A delegation of 6 to 10 people from Russia will come to Hickory, February 28 – March 8, 2015. All delegates are professionals in the addictions field. While here, they will meet with various non-profit organizations working in their same field. Mr. Nassar said he hopes the Russian film “Leviathan” will be shown by the Footcandle Film Society on Thursday evening, March 5. The visiting delegates, Footcandle members and HIC members will be invited to attend.

Pangea MUN Update – Mr. Crawford reported attendance is up for the Model UN Conference, March 9-10, 2015. Two additional schools plan to sign up, one each from Burke and Caldwell Counties. Dr. Humphreys said 138 students are currently signed up on the website to participate, not counting the ones Mr. Crawford mentioned earlier. Dr. Humphreys said 8 schools and 1 scout troop will compete; 23 country delegations are represented, but this is expected to increase to 27 or 28 countries. It will likely be the largest group of participants in Model UN to-date. Mr. Crawford said the 7 or 8 students at HHS have not chosen their country yet. He said the topics for student debate during the conference are listed on the website, and can be accessed through HIC’s website.

Mr. Nassar said HIC members are welcome to attend Model UN at Lenoir-Rhyne, beginning with the Opening Ceremony on Monday, March 9, 6:00 pm in the Belk Centrum, and followed by discussions from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The Opening Ceremony includes the keynote address, streamed live from a school in San Francisco. There will also be a full day of sessions on Tuesday, March 10, through 3:30 pm.

Mr. Crawford said volunteers would be needed during the conference, especially on Tuesday. Anyone interested in being a session monitor should let him know.

2015 IFFC Update – Mr. Nassar said the International Film Festival for Children (IFFC) would be held April 27–30, 2015, with up to 8,000 students in 4th through 6th grades attending. He reviewed the schedule and assigned schools for each site, and said volunteers will be needed at each site, morning and afternoon. The three school superintendents will select the films for the festival from a list, and all students will see the same films simultaneously. Mr. Crawford asked if the IYC members could also preview the films. Mr. Nassar will send the film links to all HIC members, and Mr. Crawford can share them with IYC members.

Mr. Nassar received over 300 entries in the IFFC logo contest, and shared some examples of the students' artwork. The top 3 entries in each grade level 4-6 will be given a cash prize. He will e-mail the entries to HIC members.

FY 2015-2016 Work Plan Discussion and Approval – Mr. Nassar said the HIC's work plan is due tomorrow, and will be presented to City Council on Tuesday, March 3, 7:00 pm, at City Hall. He shared the PowerPoint slides he plans to use during his presentation, and discussed the various programs and events the HIC conducts and sponsors each year. He said the Steve McCurry photography exhibit at HMA was added to next year's work plan, and the HIC budget request remains at \$11,500. Mr. Nassar will e-mail the PowerPoint presentation to members for review.

Ken Humphreys moved, seconded by Marion Love, to approve the FY 2015-2016 Work Plan and budget request of \$11,500 for the Hickory International Council, as presented and discussed. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Celebration of Nations – Mr. Nassar said the Celebration of Nations would be held on April 11, 2015, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, on the front lawn at CVCC. The HIC will have a tent and anyone interested is welcome to attend. He will discuss it further at the March meeting.

Steve McCurry HMA Exhibition – Marion Love reported on exhibit details and potential ways to support HMA earlier in the meeting. Mr. Nassar said the exhibit opens on September 12, 2015 in Coe Gallery, HMA's main gallery. The exhibit will run for 3 months.

2015 Folkmoot – Mr. Nassar said Folkmoot would be held in the SALT Block Auditorium on Sunday evening, July 19, 2015. He said Folkmoot is an international festival, currently in its 32nd year in NC, and its 4th year in Hickory. Three of the eight groups of international entertainers will perform during their visit here. The HIC can request which three groups will perform in Hickory, but there is no guarantee.

TED-x Hickory – The local TED-x program will be on Saturday, March 21 in the SALT Block Auditorium. Tickets are \$25. Only 100 tickets will be sold, and they are very limited at this point. Visit TED.com for further information.

Other Business: none

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 19, 2015, 5:30 pm in the Moretz Board Room at the Arts & Science Center.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Hani Nassar, Chair
Hickory International Council

Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk