



Hickory International Council
Thursday, January 15, 2015, 5:30 pm

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 5:30 pm in the Moretz Board Room of the Arts & Science Center of Catawba Valley.

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

Members Absent: Michael Kuchinsky and Becky Mich

Guests Present: Gretchen Oetting, Rocky Bravo and Suzanne Trolen

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.

Approval of November 20, 2014 Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting in November were distributed in advance. Ken Humphreys moved, seconded by Marion Love, to approve the November 20, 2014 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of Guests & Membership Changes: Gretchen Oetting and Rocky Bravo were introduced to members. Ms. Oetting was a participant in the City's Neighborhood College program last fall. Mr. Bravo is a native of Costa Rico.

Old Business:

BSA-IYC Update – Ken Humphreys is scheduled to explain parliamentary procedure, as it applies to Model UN, during the International Youth Council (IYC) meeting tonight; it is quite different from traditional parliamentary procedure.

Jack Crawford reported an advisor for IYC has been recruited at Hickory High School (HHS), Rachel Moyer. He said there would now be two different IYC meetings, one during lunch at HHS and the other regular evening meeting. Students are still in the process of selecting their countries for Model UN on March 9-10, 2015, at P.E. Monroe Auditorium at LRU. Transportation for HHS students participating will need to be arranged.

Mr. Crawford shared a list of the IYC students and said six more have joined. He said Alex Mezei spoke to the IYC students at their last meeting, regarding the political situation in Eastern Europe. Mr. Crawford asked Marion Love to speak to the students on creating presentations at a future IYC meeting.

2014 HIC Grant Applications – Two grant applications have been received from the Newton-Conover City Schools, and both fulfill the \$500 grant requirements. The deadline was extended to January 15, 2015, which is today. Mr. Nassar knew of two others who might apply, and Mr. Crawford also knew of one. He said the grant guidelines state that one can be from Catawba County and one from Hickory. If no applications are received from within Hickory, then both grants can be awarded to applicants in the county. He will e-mail the two applications to members tonight, and any others received. Up to two

applications can be approved, but a decision must be made by the end of January. Possibly the recipients could be invited to attend the March meeting and receive their checks then.

Romanian Baptist Church Christmas Concert Summary – Mr. Nassar said the concert was held on December 20, 2014, with a smaller attendance than in the past. He said more than half the attendees were non-Romanians. Dr. Humphreys said the concert was held very close to Christmas this year. Mr. Nassar said the 2015 concert would be held at 7:00 pm on Saturday, December 5.

HIC Christmas Dinner Summary – The dinner was held at Thai Lotus on December 18, 2014, with 18 people attending, providing a good opportunity to gather socially, without discussing HIC business. Members discussed having a similar outing, or retreat, during the summer.

2015 Pangea MUN – The Model UN program will be March 9-10, 2015, with middle school and high school students participating. Dr. Humphreys said schools are beginning to sign up. He shared an example of the coffee mugs they have ordered to give each teacher participating. The mugs will also be sold, along with ball caps that Mr. Nassar will order. Dr. Humphreys said the entire program would be held on the LRU campus, using space available in four buildings.

Mr. Crawford will talk with the person coordinating home-schooled students, and will also share information with area Boy Scout troops. Mr. Nassar invited HIC members to attend Model UN, beginning on Monday, March 9 at 6:00 pm, P.E. Monroe Auditorium.

2015 IFFC – Mr. Nassar said this year's International Film Festival for Children would be held April 27-30, 2015. The logo contest deadline for 4th, 5th & 6th grades is the end of January, and he has already received over 100 entries. After the deadline, he will send an e-mail with the entries by grade level, and HIC members will vote by e-mail. Winning logos will be used to advertise the festival.

Mr. Nassar said last year about 2,400 students participated in the festival, and hopefully attendance will triple this year, using three venues. He again reviewed the plan for the 2015 festival: Hickory Public Schools students, private school and home-schooled students will attend the festival at the SALT Block Auditorium, Catawba County Schools students will attend at the Maiden High School auditorium, and Newton-Conover Schools students will attend at the Newton-Conover Middle School auditorium. Mr. Nassar said the schedule minimizes travel. Two volunteers, serving as host at each site, are needed for each day, Monday through Thursday, during the 2-hour morning and 2-hour afternoon sessions. He will e-mail the schedule to members, requesting they sign up to assist. It was noted the students' teachers would attend with them. Only short films, 10-15 minutes in length, will be shown during the festival. All films will be appropriate for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students, and pre-approved by the three school systems. He asked members to offer suggestions.

FY 2015-2016 Work Plan Update – Mr. Nassar said the Work Plan and Budget request for fiscal year 2015-2016 must be submitted in February and presented to City Council for approval on March 3, 2015. He said the fiscal year begins on July 1, 2015 and ends on June 30, 2016. He requested feedback from members regarding changes to the work plan, but has received none so far. He will revise the HIC's current work plan/budget and send it to members.

New Business:

Open World Program – Mr. Nassar introduced Suzanne Trolen of The Counseling Group, past president of Hickory Rotary Club. She explained the Open World Program, and said their club signed up to host a Eurasian delegation of six people from Russia through the program, February 28-March 8, 2015. All six delegates are professionals in the addictions field, and they want to learn how professionals in the U.S. work with their community. She has scheduled visits for the delegates with various organizations,

including Safe Harbor, Women’s Resource Center, Exodus Outreach, Catawba Valley Behavioral Health, Catawba County Mental Health, Council on Adolescence, and plans to contact the D.A.R.E. program. While they are here, Mr. Nassar will coordinate a viewing of the Russian film “Leviathan” for the delegates, on the evening of March 5th through the Footcandle Film Society. He said HIC members would be invited to attend.

Mr. Crawford asked if a discussion with IYC members could be planned during the delegates’ visit.

Other Business: Dr. Love will send members an e-mail with information on the caviar farm in Lenoir, NC. She can arrange for a tour, either after 5:00 pm on a weekday, or on a Saturday. Members preferred to go as a group on a weekend. She will arrange it and advise members. Mr. Nassar suggested the visit be combined with a strategic planning meeting.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, February 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 6:40 pm.

Hani Nassar, Chair
Hickory International Council

Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk