

Hickory International Council
Thursday, October 15, 2015; 5:30 pm

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

Members Present: Hani Nassar, Karl Wolfe, Marion Love, Marc Swinnen, Joe Getlein, Cynthia Ferrell and Toshiaki Satake

Members Absent: Claire McCrae, Bella Fields, Ken Humphreys, Jack Crawford, Becky Mich, Alex Mezei and Maria Jose Daily

Guests Present: Efrain Palafox

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 Minutes: There was no meeting in September. Minutes of the previous meeting on August 20, 2015 were distributed to members in advance. No additions or corrections were stated. Marc Swinnen moved, seconded by Joe Getlein, to approve the August minutes as written. The motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of Guests & Board Membership Changes: Mr. Nassar said four new HIC members have been appointed since the last meeting: Joe Getlein and Cynthia Ferrell, and Youth Council representatives Claire McCrae and Bella Fields.

Old Business:

HIC Financial Statement Update – Mr. Nassar distributed copies of the current financial statement. He said City Council increased the HIC budget for the current year, from \$11,500 to \$13,000. Expenses paid since FY 2015-2016 began on July 1, 2015 were \$5,926. There is \$7,074 remaining in the budget, through June 30, 2016.

BSA-IYC (International Youth Council) Update – There was no update from the BSA-IYC.

Footcandle Film Festival Summary – Mr. Nassar attended and said it was a very good event, well attended, with awards presented. Short films were presented on Friday, full-feature films on Saturday, and documentaries on Sunday. The average age range of attendees was 40 to 50+ years and the Footcandle Film Society plans to hold the festival again next year.

Steve McCurry Photography Exhibit Update – The Steve McCurry exhibit is currently at Hickory Museum of Art (HMA) and will run through May 2016. A few members have seen the exhibit and agreed it was very good. Marion Love said the HIC donated sponsor funds to HMA for two different photography workshops, which will be on Saturday, October 24, one each in the morning and afternoon. Ginny Zellmer informed Dr. Love that registrations are minimal. At one time, the HIC discussed holding a workshop where Boy Scouts could earn a photography badge by participating, and she sent word about the workshops

to her BSA contacts. Ms. Zellmer still needs volunteer docents (exhibit guides) and will provide docent training. HMA is scheduling organized group tours, and will especially need docents for these groups.

WPCOG Sister Cities Update – Mr. Nassar said Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) has now decided to continue supporting the Sister Cities program, so there is no longer a need for HIC to provide assistance to them.

Great Decisions Update – The sixth of eight weekly sessions was held on Tuesday night, 6:00 – 8:00 pm, with 27 participants present. Mr. Nassar said a guest “expert” on the topic being discussed attended the session this week, which was helpful in answering participants’ questions. Mr. Nassar said 18-24 participants typically attend each week.

New Business:

Folk moot Fall Event – Mr. Nassar had previously advised members that the performers from Bangladesh and the Philippines were unable to attend in July 2015, due to visa problems. The Folk moot USA organization is interested in bringing these two groups of performers to North Carolina for one week, and contacted Mr. Nassar re having them perform for the three public school systems on a November weekday. The event depends on having adequate sponsorships, and is still uncertain at this point. Sponsorships would pay the bus fees and meal expenses for performers. Mr. Nassar said if the plan comes together soon, he would send an e-mail to members and conduct an on-line vote by members. Dr. Love asked if there would be a performance for the public, and Mr. Nassar said probably not, due to time. If it turns out that there is enough time for a public event, both LRU and CVCC’s auditoriums were suggested as possible locations, and it could be quickly planned for either site.

Romanian Baptist Church Christmas Concert – The Christmas Concert will be on Saturday, December 5, 6:00-8:00 pm in the SALT Block Auditorium, followed by a reception for all attendees with Romanian refreshments served. They have requested sponsor funds to help them bring in an orchestra for the concert this year. When Mr. Nassar receives the sponsor information, he will share it with HIC members. Dr. Love expressed interest in promoting the concert to local churches, and requested that another HIC member assist her.

2016 MUN – The PANGEA Model United Nations Conference will be held March 8-9, 2016 on the LRU campus. Mr. Nassar said the first monthly meeting of the planning committee is next Wednesday, 6:30 pm, in the Fireside Room at LR’s Cromer Center. Dr. Love is serving as co-chair, along with Tom Perry from South Caldwell High School. She expects MUN to run very smoothly this year, thanks to assistance from John and Amy Green, and Tom Perry.

Dr. Love discussed the conference schedule, and distributed a copy of the Daily Schedule from the conference held last March. She invited HIC members to become more involved in the conference this year; each topic requires the written preparation of a two-page background report, and members could assist in writing the topic papers. There are two topics per Council.

Attendance Record – Mr. Nassar said active participation by members is essential to the effectiveness of the Council. He emphasized the importance of attending HIC monthly meetings and participating in the sub-committees being formed, which will function outside the monthly meetings.

Christmas Party – Mr. Nassar said members typically hold a “Dutch” Christmas party, with social time and dinner at a restaurant, in place of their regular meeting in December. He suggested reserving the location and date now, so it can be announced ASAP.

HIC Event Sub-committees – Dr. Love led a discussion on the formation of sub-committees. Dr. Love said sub-committees would focus on events and activities conducted by the HIC, and asked members which ones would need a sub-committee for oversight.

Suggestions for sub-committees included the Int’l Film Festival for Children (IFFC), Folkmoot, Romanian Baptist Choir Christmas Concert, MUN, Great Decisions, BSA-IYC, Community Grants, HIC website, and Christmas Party. For some sub-committees, it might simply mean creating a checklist of tasks needed, such as advertising, reserving the site, etc., while for other ones the workload would be more substantial. All agreed it was important to have specific, written documentation on the various components needing oversight for each HIC event and activity. Dr. Love said the IFFC likely has the most components and tasks that need handling.

Since the Christmas Party is the most urgent task, Marc Swinnen and Toshiaki Satake volunteered to serve, and will plan the location and date immediately. Dr. Love asked them to bring their plan to the November meeting. Members volunteered to serve on the various sub-committees, and Dr. Love recorded their names. She will prepare a list of the sub-committees and volunteers, and e-mail it to members before the next meeting.

HIC Website – Dr. Love asked Karl Wolfe to update information on the HIC website, including the MUN dates. She will look over the information on the website, and suggest what other areas need to be updated now.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 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 6:45 pm.

Hani Nassar, Chair
Hickory International Council

Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk
City of Hickory