

**Hickory International Council**  
**Thursday, March 16, 2017, 5:30 pm**

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, March 16, 2017, 5:30 pm, in the Moretz Board Room of the Arts & Science Center of Catawba Valley.

**Members Present:** Hani Nassar, Eric Brandon, Ira Roberts, Claire McCrea, Marion Love, Bella Fields, Gretchen Oetting, Toshiaki Satake, Aaron Kohrs, Karl Wolfe and Ibiyemi Carrol

**Members Absent:** Jack Crawford, Marc Swinnen, Justin Davis, Ken Humphreys, Joe Getlein and Becky Mich

**Guests Present:** Ron Jones, Amelia Kennedy, Cady Ray and Steven Chuang (Taiwan)

**Others 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 thanked everyone for attending.

**Approval of February 16, 2017 Minutes:** Minutes from the previous meeting were distributed to members in advance. Marion Love moved, seconded by Aaron Kohrs, to approve the February 16, 2017 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Introduction of Guests/Board Changes:** The guests attending introduced themselves.

**HIC Member Oath of Office:** Mr. Nassar said the three remaining HIC members would take their oath of office the next time they attend a meeting.

**Old Business:**

**HIC Monthly Financial Statement** – Mr. Nassar said \$8,318.30 remains in the City budget, available through June 30, 2017, and \$8,459.95 remains in the SpringFest budget.

**HIC Grants** – Check presentations were made to two of the three organizations approved for an HIC Community Grant, and photos were made for the news release. Ron Jones and Amelia Kennedy received a \$500 check on behalf of Leaders Comunidad of NC, for their project “Citizenship Educational Program.” Cady Ray received a \$500 check on behalf of the Hickory Crawdads, for their “2017 Hispanic Heritage Night” project. She said the Crawdads season pocket schedule includes the HIC’s name on the game day of “Hispanic Heritage Night,” Friday, May 12. The remaining grant check will be presented to Lenoir-Rhyne University during the April HIC meeting.

**Model UN Summary** – Marion Love reported the 2-day PANGEA Model United Nations Conference on March 7-8, 2017 was very successful, with close to 200 students participating. She thanked the HIC members who assisted with the event. Their committee members normally hold a wrap-up meeting immediately after the conference ends, but it had to be postponed this year. They will go ahead and request feedback from the teachers who participated. Dr. Love said the keynote address by Dr. Keith Humphreys was outstanding. He forwarded the notes from his address, which they might post online.

Folk moot USA – Folk moot will be held in Drendel Auditorium on Sunday, July 23, 2017. The 3:00 pm performance is for the public, with a private performance for sponsors at 6:00 pm. Mr. Nassar said members would begin discussing event details next month, and noted that last-minute ticket sales are always an issue. He reviewed the ticket sales and prices from recent years, saying that Folk moot provided him with 200 adult (\$10) and 50 youth (\$5) tickets to sell, and tickets were also available on-line. All tickets were for general seating, and each \$5 youth ticket was refunded at the door.

Cady Ray said the HIC would be given a free “marketing table” to use at the stadium on Friday, May 12, the game day for “Hispanic Heritage Night.” Members could use the table to market HIC events and activities, including Folk moot. Mr. Nassar said the HIC could hold drawings for free Folk moot tickets, but that members would discuss ideas at their April meeting.

Great Decisions Update – The next series of discussions will be held on Tuesday evenings, September 5 through October 24, 2017, from 6-8 pm, in the Keiser Community Room. There are currently 25 registered, with a maximum of 31 participants. More information is on the HIC website.

HIC Website Update – This will be the final update on the website. Mr. Nassar no longer receives feedback from members, and the 6-month “grace period” to make changes at no cost is expiring.

HIC Brochure Report – Draft copies of the new brochure were distributed. Gretchen Oetting reported on behalf of the sub-committee and introduced their members. It is a 3-panel brochure, with various methods for getting in touch with the HIC printed on the back panel, including a QR code. They hope to make all revisions and print it by May 12, in time to hand out at the Hickory Crawdads game. She reviewed the suggested changes they have received and asked for questions or comments. It was noted the brochure was prepared in a software format that only Fez Palafox can access, so it needs to be converted to Word for editing, prior to printing. Also, the QR code is not working for some people. Mr. Nassar offered to handle printing/folding 1,000 or more brochures, and local printers and prices were discussed.

HIC/Footcandle Foreign Film – The film Toni Erdmann, a 2017 Oscar contender, was shown as the Footcandle Film Society’s first quarter foreign film. The Salesman won the Oscar, and will possibly be the foreign film for the second quarter this year.

Women’s International Day Summary – Mr. Nassar congratulated Dr. Love on being one of three local women recognized during the Women’s International Day on March 8, and members applauded her. He said 125 people attended the event, nearly triple what they had expected.

FY 2017-18 Work Plan – Mr. Nassar presented the Work Plan for next year to Hickory City Council on March 7. He requested an additional \$2,000 for the budget and spoke with the individual council members.

Mr. Nassar discussed a suggestion that was made for the MUN chairs to each receive a stipend of \$50 to \$100, in the form of gift cards. Dr. Love, Eric Brandon and Gretchen Oetting all agreed that offering a stipend would be helpful toward both retention and recruitment of the chairs. Dr. Love suggested having a contract with each chair in the future, including the requirement that each chair will attend a training session and the 2-day MUN event. There were 5 total committees this year, with 2 chairs for each, a total 10 chairs. Mr. Nassar will wait to review the final MUN expenses before determining where these funds would come from in the budget, and will discuss it further with the City’s staff liaison.

Children’s International Film Festival Update – The festival will be held for students in grades 4-6, at three sites in the county, April 24-27, 2017. Dr. Love took the information submitted by all sub-committee members and compiled a list of 60 semi-finalist short films, and a proposed finalists list of 25 short films. Mr. Nassar will provide members with the link to the films being provided to educators, and members can

watch them if they choose. He said the educators have until April 15 to submit film choices for their students. The poster contest was issued to the schools in December, with a deadline at the end of March, but no entries have been received yet. An HIC sub-committee will choose four contest winners for each grade, and all 12 winners will receive a cash prize during the festival. Toshiaki Satake suggested that local restaurants be asked to display the winning posters for viewing by parents and the public, a nice way to market the HIC. Gretchen Oetting suggested posting them at all libraries, where children and parents would all see them. HIC volunteers are needed during the festival, 2 per site on each of the 4 days.

**New Business:** The Western Piedmont Symphony is promoting the HIC as a sponsor of the Tesla Quartet performance on Saturday, April 8. There are 80 tickets available for \$10 each, a ticket price reduction of over 50%.

Aaron Kohrs discussed his idea for a Global Fair Trade Seminar. He proposed holding it in late April or during May, and mentioned a couple possible speakers. He said members of the City's Hickory Community Relations Council might be interested in participating. Eric Brandon said LRU would hold an International Festival on Friday, March 31; he suggested that Mr. Kohrs might participate, and they will discuss it further.

**Other Business:** Mr. Nassar received information from the Catawba Valley Inter-Faith Council, inviting faith groups to participate in an International Day they plan to hold. HIC members agreed this is not a good fit with their mission.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 20, 2017, 5:30 pm, in the Moretz Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Arts & Science Center.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

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Hani Nassar, Chair  
Hickory International Council

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Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk  
City of Hickory