

Hickory International Council
Thursday, September 20, 2012; 5:30 pm
Patrick Beaver Memorial Library

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 5:30 pm in the second floor conference room at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library.

HIC (voting) Members Present: Hani Nassar, Ken Humphreys, Betty Peterson, Bawol Cabiri, Marc Swinnen, Michael Kuchinsky, Becky Mich, and newly-assigned member Ramona Hodge.

HIC (voting) Members Absent: Jack Crawford, Kyle May, and Toshiaki Satake

HIC (non-voting) Members Present: Marion Love

HIC (non-voting) Members Absent: Marie Connelly, Kathryn Grandgenett, Vanina Joulin-Batejat, Rosemarie Klingspor, and Karl Wolfe

Others Present: Richard Churn, David French, Carleen Crawford, and Minutes Clerk Anne Starnes

Call to Order: Hani Nassar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting were mailed to members electronically in advance. Ken Humphreys moved, seconded by Michael Kuchinsky, to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2012 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of Guests and Board Membership Changes: Ramona Hodge, who has been attending HIC meetings for a year and a half, applied last month to join the board. Her application was approved on 9/18/12, two days before the meeting.

Richard Churn – Explorer Post: Mr. Nassar introduced Richard Churn, Exploring Executive with Boy Scouts of America – Piedmont Council. Mr. Churn gave an overview of the Exploring program; it is part of the Boy Scouts, a co-ed program for students age 14 to 20 with various career and hobby interests. A number of Exploring programs currently exist in Catawba County, involving students in law enforcement, scuba diving, the medical profession, arts and humanities, and veterinarian medicine. Each program has a business, non-profit organization, or government office as its sponsor.

Mr. Churn said a chartering organization, such as HIC, is required to begin an Exploring program. The cost to charter a post is \$20, which covers the 4-5 adults governing the program and liability insurance. Five youth participants are required. It costs \$15 per year, per student, to be a registered Explorer, plus \$1 for insurance. The Exploring program is a nationally recognized program; students can cite their participation when applying for college admission. Initially, each student completes a Student Interest Career Survey. BSA Piedmont Council builds a database from the survey feedback; students are then contacted to participate in programs based on their indicated interests.

The hobby or career for this post would be an interest in international affairs. HIC and BSA need to determine which code choices on the student survey would indicate a “match” between the students and international affairs. To simplify this, Mr. Churn is willing to add Model UN or other choices to the survey to help identify interested students. HIC members will continue discussion of the program and

will advise Mr. Churn how they plan to proceed. Participants in the Explorer program will be considered as HIC Junior members.

David French – Global Communications: Mr. Nassar introduced David French, a filmmaker with 30 years of experience. His wife also works in the film industry. Mr. French said he is interested in establishing a worldwide association through communication between students in Hickory and foreign cities, connecting them by creating relationships. He is interested in pursuing the effort with area school students. The focus would be that “we are more alike than we are different” in an effort to build international relationships. He said he has shared his ideas with Hickory Mayor Rudy Wright and Dr. Walter Hart, Superintendent Hickory Public Schools.

Mr. French is promoting filming in the Hickory area. Dr. Kuchinsky inquired of any particular action item for HIC members to consider. Mr. French said he wants HIC members to make contacts with foreign countries and establish relationships. Dr. Kuchinsky suggested an initial idea might be to identify a “pilot” situation between Hickory and international students. Under the leadership of Mr. French and his wife, a film project titled “A Day in the Life of Hickory” or “A Day in the Life of (name of foreign city)” would be the final outcome/s. Dr. Love noted the Boy Scouts survey discussed earlier included actor/actress, movie director/producer, creative writing, etc., as student interest choices. She said the BSA database of students with these interests would provide a link to creating such a student project. Mr. Nassar said HIC members would need to discuss the idea further.

Old Business:

HIC Junior Membership Update: See Explorer Post discussion above.

Great Decisions, Sept. 11 to Oct. 23 – update on initial two sessions: Dr. Kuchinsky said the two sessions held to-date averaged 12 attendees each. Books are still available for \$10. The next discussion topic is on Mexico.

HIC Grant Application 2012 – update on applications received to-date: There was no discussion.

HIC 10-year Celebration – committee update: Instead of the regular meeting on October 18, members will hold a 10-year Celebration on Thursday, October 25, to coincide with United Nations Day (on the 24th). It will be a “pot luck” dinner with an international theme, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, at Betty Peterson’s home in Hickory. Possibly an international beer and wine tasting could be part of the event. Mr. Nassar suggested a short United Nations film be shown; something may be available at the library or on the internet. Former Hickory International Council members are also invited to attend and bring a dish.

New HIC Brochures – committee update: Mr. Nassar stated that he and Karl Wolfe worked on the brochure content but that it is not complete. The brochure will be discussed at the next meeting.

HIC Membership – new list for 2012-2013: Mr. Nassar is preparing a new membership list for 2012-2013 based on the attendance record.

New Quorum Requirements for HIC – update: It was recently discovered the HIC has no by-laws, so the City is creating them. Guidelines will be developed for attendance, membership, meeting quorum, etc., and changes are pending.

Footcandle Society – next international movie selection update: A list of proposed movies for the Footcandle Society’s next foreign film selection was distributed. Betty Peterson stated that she, Marion

Love, Marc Swinnen and Ramona Hodge had met and developed the list. Alan Jackson has received the list; he will check on the availability of these movies.

Ms. Peterson shared the process used in developing the list of proposed films. The process they followed was put in writing and will be available to use in the future. Developing a similar process outline for each HIC project was suggested at the previous meeting.

New Business:

Southwest Project: Dr. Love reported that educators from Southwest Elementary School had contacted HIC regarding transforming their school's efforts as related to diversity and multi-cultural education. Two Southwest educators met with three HIC members following last month's meeting to discuss ideas. The educators then talked to their principal and there is interest in a whole-school approach, to include how the school and faculty look at their curriculum plan, professional development plan, etc. Dr. Love said a presentation would be made on Monday, October 22, for one hour. As a result, a "template" will be developed for HIC to use in the future when requests are received from schools; it will be shared with members at a future meeting.

Other Business: Ken Humphreys said the 2013 dates for Model UN are Tuesday, March 26 and Wednesday, March 27. He requested Dr. Kuchinsky serve as a speaker on March 27, 2013.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be HIC's 10-year Celebration on Thursday, October 25, 2012, 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Betty Peterson's home. Mr. Nassar will e-mail directions and information to members.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Starnes
Minutes Clerk