

**Hickory International Council**  
**Thursday, August 15, 2013; 5:30 pm**

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, August 15, 2013 at 5:30 pm in the second floor conference room at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library.

**Members Present:** Hani Nassar, Michael Kuchinsky, Bawol Cabiri, Marc Swinnen, Toshiaki Satake, Karl Wolfe and Becky Mich

**Members Absent:** Ken Humphreys, Ramona Hodge and Jack Crawford

**Others Present:** Marion Love

**Guests Present:** Lee White

**Staff Present:** 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 distributed to members in advance. Michael Kuchinsky moved, seconded by Karl Wolfe, to approve the July 18, 2013 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**Introduction of Guests & Board Membership Changes:** Dr. Marion Love introduced Lee White and members welcomed him to the meeting. He was invited to attend future meetings and, if interested, eventually fill out an application to become a council member.

**2013 Great Decisions Discussions:** Mr. Nassar asked Dr. Michael Kuchinsky for an update on the upcoming Great Decisions Discussions. Dr. Kuchinsky, a professor at Gardner-Webb, will lead the discussions. He said the program is a continuing education series, directed at individuals who enjoy discussing politics and the countries with “great decisions” currently facing American foreign policy. This is the third year the HIC has sponsored the program, held on consecutive Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:00 pm. There will be a different topic on each of six evenings, beginning on Tuesday, September 10 with the topic “Threat Assessment,” and concluding on Tuesday, October 15. All sessions will be held in the meeting room on first floor of Patrick Beaver Memorial Library.

Members discussed event details and specific tasks. **Publicity** – Mr. Nassar will request that Dana Kaminske, Communications Specialist for the City of Hickory, send a press release. He will also invite her to attend the sessions, if possible. **Snacks** – Dr. Love will speak with Edgar Hernandez and request a fixed price for refreshments he would provide on all six evenings. **Books** – Mr. Nassar said HIC members who have signed up to participate each received their book. The program is free for HIC members and \$10 for others, which includes a copy of the

book at half price. Room Set-up – Mr. Cabiri will set up the room in a horseshoe setting each week and bring electrical cords.

### **Old Business:**

Folk moot USA 2013 Summary – Mr. Nassar said all monies from the program in July have been reconciled and he has paid the Folk moot organization. Approximately \$800 in ticket sales were from sales at the door the day of the event. The auditorium was 80% full, with over 300 attendees. Members discussed this year’s event. Some HIC members commented the overall performance was weaker than in the past, but they agreed the audience was happy. The performers came to Hickory from Asheville and did not bring along items for attendees to purchase as in the past, disappointing some attendees. Mr. Nassar said he is arranging for on-line ticket purchasing next year, which may help push advance ticket sales. He has also requested tickets be sold by the seat number; it will not be general seating next year and ushers may be needed.

Karl Wolfe asked if it would be possible to change the time, saying that 7:00 pm on a Sunday night is late, especially for children. A different time and/or day could possibly work better for families. Mr. Nassar will speak with the organizers and look at the 2014 schedule.

Mr. Nassar shared a letter he received from Dr. Dan Brigman, Superintendent of Catawba County Schools. Dr. Brigman said his family had enjoyed the Folk moot performance and thanked the HIC for the invitation to attend.

Dr. Love suggested selling tickets to Folk moot’s closing event next year, possibly renting a bus, selling tickets, and taking the group to the “Candlelight Ceremony” in Waynesville, NC.

SW Elementary School Global Initiative Update – Mr. Nassar shared an e-mail he received from Ellen Douglas at Southwest Elementary School, reporting that she, Ms. Bauer and Ms. Kennedy met with Steve Hunt at CVCC to talk about his program. She noted some ideas they are pursuing with them, including: letting students know about CVCC’s multicultural events that take place throughout the year; setting up a mentoring program for African American boys with some of their mentors; arranging folk dancing instruction for SW Elementary students from the students in the Challenger program; and, arranging for guest speakers from various cultures.

She also asked if HIC members would be interested in participating as guest speakers at their future events to share ideas from their cultures. Mr. Cabiri volunteered to participate.

Footcandle Film Society - Next Foreign Film – Mr. Nassar shared an e-mail from Alan Jackson, giving an update of their plans for foreign film screenings through November 2014. He suggests screening films in November 2013, and during the months of February, May, August, and November in 2014. This offers four international screenings during each year. The February film would, hopefully, be a screening of a current Oscar nominated film. HIC members did not believe the International Film Festival for Children in May 2014 conflicts with a Footcandle foreign film screening during the same month, and suggested agreeing to the proposed schedule.

Jamboree on the Air Update – Mr. Nassar said the Boy Scouts’ “Jamboree on the Air” event discussed at the previous HIC meeting was approved by all appropriate parties with oversight of the library property. The event will be on Saturday, October 19, and the scouts’ antennas will be set up in the grassy area in front of Patrick Beaver Memorial Library.

Letters to HIC Members to Renew Interest in the Council Update – Mr. Nassar sent a letter to HIC Advisory Board members, requesting they advise him of their intentions to remain on the board and attend meetings. He received a response from nine of 15 people. A revised member list will be prepared and distributed at the October meeting.

**New Business:**

IFFC 2014 Proposal – Mr. Nassar has spoken with each of the three superintendents in the county regarding the International Film Festival for Children (IFFC) in May 2014. They are each interested in having a single weekday for their school system to attend the festival. Each school system will bus their students directly to the SALT Block auditorium to participate in the event. Mr. Nassar said the films chosen would be curriculum-based. Agreement on one single week is now needed, one week that works for each school system to participate on a different day of that week. Dr. Love suggested having one contact person within each of the three school systems to aid in selecting the films, since they will be chosen on a curriculum basis. Second, she suggested the council prepare background information for the teachers and, if possible, provide lesson plans on the films. Last, Dr. Love suggested an evaluation form be developed for the teachers and students to complete, offering input on the film selections, what they learned, etc.

September Meeting – There will not be a meeting of the HIC in September.

**Other Business:** Dr. Love asked if the Romanian Choir would return to Hickory during Christmas this year. Mr. Nassar said he has not been contacted yet, but hopes they plan to return. Becky Mich will speak with her contact person and inquire.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 17, 5:30 pm at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Nassar thanked everyone for attending. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

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Hani Nassar, Chair  
Hickory International Council

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Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk