

Hickory International Council
Thursday, October 17, 2013; 5:30 pm

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 5:30 pm in the second floor conference room at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library.

Members Present: Hani Nassar, Bawol Cabiri, Ken Humphreys, Marc Swinnen, Karl Wolfe, Jack Crawford and Toshiaki Satake

Members Absent: Becky Mich, Michael Kuchinsky, and Ramona Hodge

Guests Present: Laura Eckard, Richard Churn, Anna Shook, and Frank, David, and Susan Mofford

Staff Present: Minutes Clerk Anne Starnes

A quorum was present.

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

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting on August 15, 2013 were distributed to members in advance. Karl Wolfe moved, seconded by Marc Swinnen, to approve the August meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of Guests & Board Membership Changes: Mr. Nassar introduced Frank, David and Susan Mofford, participants in the recent Great Decisions program, and Laura Eckard, also a Great Decisions participant. Ms. Eckard said she enjoys traveling to other countries and is interested in the local international community. All were welcomed and invited to attend future meetings.

Old Business:

SW Global Initiative Monthly Update – Anna Shook of Southwest Elementary School updated members on the school’s plans and efforts. She said their teachers are making an effort to include global awareness components in their classroom lesson plans and are building international internet links into their assignments. Their international festival is coming up, but they do not want it to be the only international emphasis students are involved in during the year. One of their ideas is for their students to have pen pal relationships with international students. She invited anyone interested to come to visit the school and see global awareness in action. Additionally, Ms. Shook said that, if approved, she plans to make global awareness the topic of her dissertation.

Mr. Nassar noted that most schools do not have a global awareness initiative, and would like to see a “template” created for other schools to use in creating their own program. Ms. Shook said they hope the organizational framework they are putting in place would be something they can easily share with other schools as a blueprint to follow. Mr. Nassar said the international HIC members are open to invitations to speak to students about their home countries.

Footcandle Film Society Upcoming Activities – The international film “Waiting for Mamu” will be presented on Wednesday, October 23, 7:00 pm at the Carolina Theater. The film “A Hijacking” is planned for Thursday, November 14; it is a Danish film and was selected by the HIC.

Great Decisions Summary – The Great Decisions program this year was well attended, beginning with nine participants and ending with 27. Michael Kuchinsky moderated the six sessions. It will begin on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 next year. Mr. Nassar will purchase 30 books again, which is the maximum number of people the meeting room can accommodate.

Jamboree on the Air – Ken Humphreys reminded members the BSA/GSA “Jamboree on the Air” will take place in front of Patrick Beaver Memorial Library this coming Saturday, October 19. Short wave radios will be set up on the lawn, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, for local scouts to talk to other scouts worldwide. A similar internet event will happen concurrently at Cleveland Community College in Shelby in the computer lab.

2014 International Film Festival for Children – Mr. Nassar said that in the spring of 2014, each school system would have one full weekday for their students to attend the event, one day per school system. Students will be bussed to the SALT Block Auditorium from their schools. The three individual days are still being determined, but he expects the event will be held in May. Any member interested in helping select the films for the 2014 festival, please let Mr. Nassar know.

New Business:

BSA Survey Results and HIC Junior Membership – Richard Churn stated a Career Interest Survey was distributed to all high school students (9th-12th grades) again this year, with the addition of International Studies/Model UN. In Catawba County, over 700 students were interested; in Iredell County, over 900 students were interested. Mr. Churn qualified that it was offered on the survey as an interest choice, not a career choice. Mr. Churn said he believes 10% of the students would actually participate. Ken Humphreys said the list of interested students was given to the Model UN chair, and hopes they will contact the schools and encourage them to start a Model UN Club for these students if they do not already have one.

Jack Crawford said that, before a HIC Junior Membership meeting can be planned for these interested high school students, the council needs to build a framework for the program and decide exactly how the students will participate. Mr. Crawford suggested someone from the council needs to be assigned to work with the students; he cannot accept the responsibility, but would like to be involved. He will begin work on an annual program plan. Ken Humphreys clarified that the objective is to organize a scouting Explorer Post, with the HIC being the sponsor. The HIC would need to assign a volunteer advisor to the Explorer Post; Jack Crawford said he would serve as the assistant. Mr. Humphreys said the students actually run their Post, elect officers, plan programs, etc. He said that, if the HIC were agreeable, the members of the Explorer Post would also become junior members of the HIC and could participate as needed.

Richard Churn said the Explorer Post meeting invitation mailed to students also encourages their parents to attend. It is possible an adult leader for the Explorer Post will come through the initial meeting. Ken Humphreys noted it might be practical to restrict the geographic area so that students

can easily travel to the monthly meetings. Mr. Nassar suggested that it might be necessary to form a sub-committee from the HIC to work on this effort.

Romanian Baptist Church Christmas Concert – The Romanian Choir concert will be on Saturday, December 21, 2013 at the SALT Block Auditorium. Refreshments and Romanian delicacies will be served after the concert. Typically, 300 people attend. Mr. Nassar will send additional information.

2014 Model UN – The Model UN program will be on Tuesday, March 11 and Wednesday, March 12, 2014. Dr. Michael Bitzer will give the keynote speech. He will speak at Lenoir-Rhyne University in P.E. Monroe Auditorium, at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, March 11. Dr. Bitzer is the Acting Provost and an Associate Professor of Politics & History at Catawba College in Salisbury.

Ken Humphreys said there is now a designated contact person within each of the high schools in our eleven-county region. The contact persons will give information to their students on the 2014 Model UN program. Teams of five students each will participate in the Model UN program; each team is assigned to represent a particular country. During the 2-day program, the student teams will debate issues as the (United Nations) representatives of their assigned country. He said that although it is only a 2-day program, the student teams prepare for months leading up to it.

TEDx Hickory – Mr. Nassar announced that the TEDx Hickory conference will be held again next year, but no date has been announced.

Other Business: Ken Humphreys mentioned Messengers for Peace, saying that it promotes programs and projects taken on by youth to promote peace and international understanding. Awards are given to participating youth. He said it may be helpful to Southwest Elementary School's efforts and advised Anna Shook to visit the BSA website www.scouting.org for additional information.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 21, 2013, 5:30 pm at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library. During the meeting, members will discuss details of their December Christmas Party. Again, the guests present were invited to attend future meetings.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Hani Nassar, Chair
Hickory International Council

Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk