

**Hickory International Council**  
**Thursday, November 21, 2013; 5:30 pm**

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, November 21, 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, Michael Kuchinsky, Becky Mich and Toshiaki Satake

**Members Absent:** Ramona Hodge

**Guests Present:** Richard Churn and Joe Getlin

**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.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the previous meeting on October 17, 2013 were distributed to members in advance. Ken Humphreys moved, seconded by Bawol Cabiri, to approve the October meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Michael Kuchinsky said he was pleased to read in the October minutes that some of the Great Decisions participants had attended the meeting.

**Introduction of Guests & Board Membership Changes:** Mr. Nassar introduced Richard Churn and Joe Getlin, both representing Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

**Old Business:**

**SW Global Initiative Monthly Update** – Mr. Nassar said one of the educators from Southwest Elementary School contacted him to share the link to their school’s new Global Awareness Website, which he will forward to HIC members. She said other schools should be able to use it as a template to create their own initiative.

**Footcandle Update** – The Danish film “A Hijacking” was presented to Footcandle Society members on November 15. Ken Humphreys said it was a good film and Alan Jackson had recognized the Hickory International Council’s participation. Mr. Nassar said four international films will be shown during the year, in February, May, August and November. In February, the recipient of the next Oscar award for the international film will be shown, or possibly one of the nominated films.

**BSA Jamboree on the Air Summary** – Joe Getlin of BSA reported the Jamboree on the Air event was held outdoors at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library on Saturday, October 17, 2013. It rained the entire day, which affected attendance. Seven scouts participated: three Cub Scouts, one Boy

Scout and three Girl Scouts. Ken Humphreys said the weather also affected the indoor internet event being held simultaneously in Shelby, with only a dozen participants. Mr. Getlin said that during the Hickory event they contacted nine states and five other countries. The worldwide event will be held again next year on the third Saturday in October. Ken Humphreys said that for next year they may set up both Jamboree on the Air programs during a scout camp, with an audience of scouts in place.

BSA – HIC Youth Council First Nighter – Tonight at 6:30 pm, the first meeting of the Hickory International Youth Council will be held. The meeting was moved to the Keiser Community Room due to a structural problem in the SALT Block Auditorium. Richard Churn said they hope up to 20 students will attend, along with parents. Student participants will join the new Explorer Post being set up to oversee the program. Jack Crawford distributed copies of the suggested program outline, including service projects within the HIC where students could participate, and reviewed the list. He will add the International Film Festival for Children to the list and will suggest students participate in the Model UN program. He also plans to suggest that students form teams and choose an international service project. After their service project is completed, students could post a video on YouTube. For the next meeting, Mr. Crawford will bring his laptop and show HIC members the website he discussed.

Mr. Crawford suggested the Hickory International Youth Council meetings be held immediately after the monthly HIC meetings. Depending on the size of the group, future meetings could be held in the meeting room off the library's lobby, in the Keiser Community Room, or in the SALT Block Auditorium. Officers for the Youth Council will be elected tonight, and possibly one of their members could serve on the HIC. Mr. Nassar said he will need e-mail addresses of students who join the Youth Council tonight for future HIC communications.

Romanian Baptist Church Christmas Concert – The Christmas Concert is planned for Saturday, December 21, but the balcony ceiling in the SALT Block Auditorium is collapsing. The auditorium is closed for at least two weeks, so the concert location could be changed. Members discussed other possible locations.

Model UN 2014 Update – Mr. Humphreys said that Tom Perry is the current Model UN chair from Caldwell County and is very well acquainted with the program. They are in the early stages of planning for the program on March 11-12, 2014, and feedback has been good. All schools have been notified and two teacher training sessions are planned to advise them how to work with their students. The website is being updated under the direction of John Green. Mr. Humphreys said with two strong leaders this year, he is confident the program will run well. Dr. Michael Bitzer, acting Provost of Catawba College, will be the keynote speaker at 6:00 pm on March 11.

TEDx Hickory – Mr. Nassar said TEDx Hickory will be on Saturday, May 10, 2014 at the SALT Block Auditorium. He is serving on the committee this year and they are currently planning the program.

International Film Festival for Children (IFFC) – Mr. Nassar said he recently spoke with Dr. Dan Brigman, Superintendent for Catawba County Schools. Dr. Brigman plans to work with the HIC and the two other school systems in selecting a week in April or May 2014 when they can all participate. One day during the week will be assigned to each school system for their students to

participate in the IFFC. The event will be held at the SALT Block Auditorium again, but only short films up to 15 minutes each will be shown this year. Elementary school students will attend in the morning, with middle school students in the afternoon.

**New Business:**

**HIC Christmas Party** – Typically a Christmas Party is held in December, in place of the regular meeting. Members discussed their preference of a full-service restaurant or a community room with members each bringing a dish to share. The party will be held on Friday evening, December 13. Members will e-mail proposed locations to Mr. Nassar by November 26.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on January 16, 2014, 5:30 pm at a location to be determined.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

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Hani Nassar, Chair  
Hickory International Council

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Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk