

**Hickory International Council**  
**Thursday, February 20, 2014; 5:30 pm**

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 5:30 pm in the Moretz Board Room of the Arts & Science Center.

**Members Present:** Hani Nassar, Karl Wolfe, Ken Humphreys, Marc Swinnen, Jack Crawford, Becky Mich and Toshiaki Satake

**Members Absent:** Ramona Hodge, Michael Kuchinsky and Bawol Cabiri

**Guests Present:** Alex Mezei, Fernanda Mezei and Nisreen Patiwala

**Staff Present:** Minutes Clerk Anne Starnes

**Call to Order:** Hani Nassar, Chair, convened the meeting at 5:30 pm. A quorum was not present.

**Introduction of Guests & Board Membership Changes:** Mr. Nassar welcomed three guests: Alex Mezei (Romania), a professor at LRU; Fernanda Mezei (Brazil), a registered nurse; and Nisreen Petiwala (India), a teacher at Hickory Day School. HIC members introduced themselves. Mr. Nassar said Nisreen Petiwala plans to join the HIC at the request of Hickory Day School.

**Old Business:**

**SW Elementary School Global Initiative** – The school’s Multicultural Day was rescheduled again, due to snow. It will now be held on March 4, 6:00 pm.

**BSA-IYC Update** – The name of the council’s youth member organization has been changed to International Youth Council (IYC); it will not officially be a part of the HIC. Jack Crawford of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) updated members on the IYC’s first meeting in January. He said the youth members decided to choose a country each month and bring refreshments to represent that country; they chose Mexico for the meeting tonight. Tonight they also plan to take a photo for the local newspaper. Almost all high schools in Catawba County are represented on the IYC. The students did not elect their officers yet, deciding instead to wait and see which members continue as active participants.

**Model UN 2014** – The Model UN program will be on March 11-12 at LRU. Approximately 120 students are scheduled to participate, with 22 of them from the IYC. Dr. Michael Bitzer, Provost of Catawba College, will be keynote speaker at the opening ceremony on Tuesday, March 11, 6:00 pm, at LRU. Mr. Nassar said the emphasis this year is on Syria.

With a quorum now present, Mr. Nassar called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

**TEDx Hickory 2014** – Mr. Nassar said the local TEDx event would be held on May 10 at the SALT Block Auditorium. TED is an acronym for Technology, Engineering and Design and the “x” designates it as a local event. He explained the concept of the one-day conference. This is the

third year that a TED event will be held in Hickory. Only 100 people may attend at \$20 each, and speakers are being selected now. There is no age limit, and tickets to attend are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

IFFC 2014 – The International Film Festival for Children will be held in the SALT Block Auditorium again this year, April 8-10, 2014. Assigned dates are Hickory Public Schools, Tuesday, April 8; Catawba County School System, Wednesday, April 9; and Newton-Conover City Schools, Thursday, April 10. Middle school students will attend in the mornings and elementary school students in the afternoons. He encouraged HIC members to come and participate.

If schools other than the three school systems would like to participate, the auditorium is also reserved for Monday, April 7. He suggested private school students could attend that day. Nisreen Petiwala asked if buses were available to transport Hickory Day School's students; they are not, but members shared transportation ideas with her for follow-up. Mr. Nassar said the HIC would pay for the bus's gas if she can secure one. Karl Wolfe will check with Concordia Day to see if they might be interested in participating on April 7.

A logo contest is being held for the festival and Mr. Nassar has received nearly 100 logo entries. Two of the entries will be chosen for marketing the festival, one each from the elementary school and middle school entries. If any HIC members would like to assist in selecting winning entries, he will e-mail entries to them and request they select their top five entries.

Folkmoor USA 2014 – This year will be the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the festival in NC and the 4<sup>th</sup> year in Hickory. It will be on Sunday, July 20, 2014, 7:00 pm at the SALT Block Auditorium. Folkmoor features 250-300 international performers, including musicians, singers and dancers, a third of whom would be coming to the Hickory performance. Mr. Nassar expects to sell all of the tickets on-line, hopefully, with assigned seating this year. Ticket prices will be \$10 for adults/seniors and \$5 for youth. In the event that not all tickets are sold in advance on-line, they may possibly be sold at the auditorium on the day of the event. There will be no tickets held in "will call" this year.

Work Plan for 2014-2015 – The 2014-2015 Work Plan and Budget was distributed to members in advance, and will be presented to City Council on Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 7:00 pm. HIC members were encouraged to attend.

Ken Humphreys moved, seconded by Becky Mich, to approve the 2014-2015 Work Plan and Budget as distributed. The motion carried unanimously.

Great Decisions 2014 – This year the Great Decisions program will begin on September 16 and be held on consecutive Tuesday evenings through October 21, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, in the Keiser Community Room (located in the building next door). The moderator this year will be Paul Martino who will soon retire from Corning. Six topics will be discussed, including Israel and the U.S., the Islamic Spring, trade policies between international countries, etc.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the previous meeting on January 16, 2014 were distributed to members in advance. Ken Humphreys moved, seconded by Karl Wolfe, to approve the January meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:**

**Footcandle/HIC Foreign Film** – Mr. Nassar said the next foreign film would be screened on Thursday, February 27, 7:00 pm at the Carolina Theater in downtown Hickory. He read the four film choices available. An e-mail will be sent announcing which film will be screened. HIC is the sponsor, so members and guests may attend at no cost.

**Other** – HIC membership was discussed. Ms. Petiwala is interested in joining, and Mr. Mezei is considering joining as LRU representative. Mr. Nassar asked her to complete the “Boards and Commissions” application form available on the website.

Ms. Petiwala said art faculty members at Hickory Day School might be available to assist in judging the logo entries for the IFFC. Also, Mr. Nassar offered to extend the entry deadline one week if they have students interested in creating a logo. In the event their students do submit entries, their faculty members would not serve as judges.

Members observed a moment of silent prayer in memory of Dr. Marion Love’s husband, Keith Wood, who passed away recently. His memorial service will be held on March 7, 6:00 pm, at Bass-Smith Funeral Home in Hickory.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 20, 2014, 5:30 pm in the Moretz Board Room at the Arts & Science Center.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

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Hani Nassar, Chair  
Hickory International Council

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Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk