

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

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

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

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

Others Present: Marion Love

Guests Present: Sheng Yang and Alex Mezei

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.

Introduction of Guests & Board Membership Changes: Mr. Nassar welcomed a guest, Sheng Yang, to the meeting. Ms. Yang introduced herself, saying she is a first grade teacher at Southwest Elementary School and part of their Global Initiative. He advised Ms. Yang of the process to join the HIC, if she decides she is interested.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting on February 20, 2014 were distributed to members in advance. Dr. Humphreys noted one correction to the minutes, which state the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm; it adjourned at 6:30 pm. Ken Humphreys moved, seconded by Marc Swinnen, to approve the February minutes, with one correction. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

BSA-IYC Update – Mr. Nassar asked that Jack Crawford advise the Boy Scouts' staff to change the IYC's name on their website from Hickory International Youth Council to the correct name, International Youth Council (IYC.)

Mr. Crawford updated members on the International Youth Council. He said 12 of the IYC students had participated in the recent Model UN; one of the students placed and received an award. She was in the Human Rights Council for Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Nassar asked if the IYC group is ready to elect their officers, and noted their elected President would then attend the monthly Hickory International Council meetings. Mr. Crawford was not certain when they plan to hold their election of officers.

Model UN, March 11-12, 2014 Summary – Mr. Nassar said around 100 students participated in Model UN this year, March 11-12 at LR. Dr. Humphreys reported the program was well under budget this year, with various sponsors assisting and donations received, including signs, website

updates, meals, snacks, etc. He said they budgeted \$6,300 for the event, but actual expenses were approximately \$5,000.

Dr. Humphreys said South Caldwell High School had nine delegations, representing nine countries. There were also two delegations from University Christian High School, one delegation from Wm. Lenoir Middle School, one from Patton High School, two from Hudson Middle School, four from the International Youth Council, four from Hickory Christian Academy, and three from Hibriten High School. He said it was a good event, and very well organized. This was the first year that middle school students participated, and the winning large delegation was from Hudson Middle School. The winning small delegation was from South Caldwell High School, so the middle school students beat the high school students. Dr. Humphreys said since middle school clubs are now eligible to participate, he expects to see 200-300 students next year. The space at LRU has been reserved for Model UN in 2015. He said that Reservations at LR can now be done in January of each year for the program during the following year.

TEDxHickory, May 10, 2014 Update – Mr. Nassar said the local TEDx event would be held on Saturday, May 10 in the SALT Block Auditorium, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. TED is an acronym for Technology, Engineering and Design and the “x” designates it as a local event. The list of ten speakers is now complete, and each will have up to 18 minutes for their presentation. Also, three presentations from previous TED events will be shown during this event. Tickets are being sold on-line, and 87 total tickets remained as of yesterday, with a discount if purchased during March. He said lunch, after-event party and a goodie bag are included in the ticket price.

Folkmoot USA, July 20, 2014 Update – Mr. Nassar said Folkmoot will be on Sunday, July 20, 2014, 7:00 pm at the SALT Block Auditorium, with 60-80 international performers, including musicians, singers and dancers. He is still working with the executive director for approval to sell all of the tickets on-line, with assigned seating this year. Ticket prices will be \$10 for adults & seniors, and \$5 for youth under 12 years. If the Folkmoot organization does not approve on-line sales through their organization, Mr. Nassar will arrange to manage it through another ticketing website.

The meeting recessed at 5:40 pm and moved to the Keiser Community Room in the West Wing building; the meeting reconvened at 5:45 pm.

Great Decisions, September 16 - October 21, 2014 Update – Mr. Nassar said Great Decisions would begin one week later during 2014. Dr. Marion Love reported that Paul Martino will soon retire from Corning and is interested in being the discussion moderator of Great Decisions this year. She said Mr. Martino’s international responsibilities with Corning, and strong interest in world events and books make him a great candidate. She plans to meet with him on March 26, and hopes to confirm him as moderator. Mr. Nassar said he would be able to lead the discussion during the first week if Mr. Martino cannot participate that week.

Foreign Film Screening for May 2014 Discussion – Mr. Nassar said the next screening of a foreign film will be on May 8, 2014. As a member, the HIC receives five free tickets to the Footcandle Society’s films. Each quarter, a foreign film is shown, chosen by the HIC. If members have ideas of foreign films to show in the future, let Mr. Nassar know.

IFFC, April 7-10, 2014 Update –The International Film Festival for Children will be held in the SALT Block Auditorium again this year, April 7-10, 2014, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. Alan Jackson of the Footcandle Society, plans to support on those days. Mr. Nassar plans to be there as needed, and encouraged HIC members to also volunteer. The schedule is: Catawba County Schools – Monday & Wednesday; Hickory Public Schools - Tuesday; and, Newton-Conover Schools and private schools – Thursday. He will communicate with members by e-mail and set up a volunteer schedule.

Mr. Nassar said the majority of students are in the 4th through 6th grades. He asked if HIC members agree the students can all see the same movies, and members thought this would be fine. He would like to have a short two-minute discussion immediately following each movie. He asked members to help establish discussion questions, and requested they be familiar with each movie and the country's culture. Dr. Love asked if the teachers had received information on the movies. Mr. Nassar said the schools had actually selected the list of movies, but he did not know what specific information was given to the teachers planning to bring their classes to the event. The films selected are from the USA, Spain, India, Canada, Portugal, Australia, and the United Kingdom, and are no more than 15 minutes each.

Members discussed entertainment but were not sure it is needed. The school liaisons had suggested international entertainment. There was agreement to skip the entertainment this year.

Mr. Nassar said 130 logos were submitted, and were put into four groups for voting, resulting in 13 top logo choices. Members who had not yet voted did so during the meeting, choosing their top three choices. The criteria for voting included: originality, the mission of the event (international and film), and the visual artwork itself. One logo from the Middle Schools, one from the Elementary Schools, and one or two others will be winners.

New Business:

HIC Grant 2014 Discussion – Mr. Nassar said there is \$1,000 available for two grants at \$500 each, and one of them needs to be within the Hickory City limits. Last year, one of the grants was not used as intended, since the International Boy Scout was unable to attend camp. Dr. Humphreys said they will definitely have an international scout at camp this summer, so one of the grants will go to this scout. The scout is scheduled to attend the HIC's July meeting to report on their U.S. experiences.

Other – Mr. Crawford asked if the International Youth Council was eligible to submit a HIC grant request. He said their members would be raising money to travel to another Model UN event at ASU on April 15, and are currently selling a fund-raising “merchant discount cards” to help them.

Karl Wolfe said he is working at Facebook now, and receives a monthly \$250 ad credit. He proposed a Hickory International Council Facebook Group be formed, where the various HIC events could be promoted. He would be assigned as administrator for the group, and can then use his \$250 ad credit to create the ads. He said there are different ways to set it up; most groups are interactive, but a closed group could also be set up. An interactive group allows anyone interested to join, and encourages people to make comments, etc. Mr. Wolfe said he would also be able to gather statistics from the group of participants, if that is desired.

Karl Wolfe moved, seconded by Ken Humphreys, to create a Facebook group for the Hickory International Council, and use the ad credits he receives as a Facebook employee to advertise, at no cost to the Council, the various HIC events. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Yang suggested that a Twitter account also be established for the Council.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, April 17, 2014, 5:30 pm in the Moretz Board Room at the Arts & Science Center.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Hani Nassar, Chair
Hickory International Council

Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk