

**Hickory International Council**  
**Thursday, October 16, 2014; 5:30 pm**

A regular meeting of the Hickory International Council (HIC) was held on Thursday, October 16, 2014 at 5:30 pm in the Moretz Board Room of the Arts & Science Center of Catawba Valley.

**Members Present:** Hani Nassar, Ken Humphreys, Marc Swinnen, Toshiaki Satake, Marion Love, Karl Wolfe, and Alex Mezei

**Members Absent:** Michael Kuchinsky, Jack Crawford, and Becky Mich

**Guests Present:** none

**Staff Present:** Minutes Clerk Anne Starnes

A quorum was present.

**Call to Order:** Hani Nassar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm and welcomed everyone present.

**Approval of August 21, 2014 Minutes:** The HIC did not meet in September. Minutes of the August meeting were distributed in advance. Marion Love moved, seconded by Marc Swinnen, to approve the August 21, 2014 minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Introduction of Guests & Membership Changes:** None

**Old Business:**

**Bawol Cabiri Memorial** – Mr. Nassar said that, at the previous meeting, members had approved a \$500 HIC donation to Patrick Beaver Memorial Library to purchase books in memory of Bawol Cabiri. Mr. Nassar has since discussed it with Library Director Louise Humphrey. She appreciated the donation, advised him that staff members knew Cabiri well, knew exactly what types of books he enjoyed, and had suggested various books. Mr. Nassar said the books have been ordered and would be available soon; members should ask at the front desk and staff will direct them to the books. Library staff plans to attach a paper bookplate in the front of each book, in memory of Cabiri.

Marion Love will write a letter to Cabiri's daughter, acknowledging the HIC's library donation.

**BSA-IYC (International Youth Council) Update** – Mr. Nassar said he has not received a recent update on the International Youth Council's activities from Jack Crawford, and is uncertain if their meetings are still being held. Ken Humphreys could offer no further information, but suggested Mr. Nassar contact Richard Churn at the regional Boy Scouts office.

Great Decisions Update – The Great Decisions program, held September 16 – October 21, 2014, ends next week. Mr. Nassar said 22 to 25 participants have attended each week, with good discussions held on the five topics to-date. The last session, on U.S. Trade Policy, is next week. He said that participants have asked why the program would stop after the sixth topic. Mr. Nassar suggested that for next year, maybe the group would discuss all eight topics, since the participant interest is there.

2014 HIC Grant Application Update – Mr. Nassar said he has not yet received any grant applications. Karl Wolfe has posted the information on the Facebook page and webpage. Members discussed sending a news release to local media and the three school systems in the county. Dr. Love suggested including a photo of a previous recipient receiving their check with the news release. Mr. Wolfe will prepare the news release information and send it to members, and Mr. Nassar will supply a photo. Marc Swinnen offered to deliver the news release to the Hickory Daily Record in person. Alex Mezei will also advertise the grants on his Twitter account.

Mr. Nassar said one grant must go to a Hickory resident, but the other can go to someone in the county. Members agreed that six weeks is adequate time for people to apply, so the application deadline will remain the end of November, and the 2014 recipients will be announced in late December or early January.

Romanian Baptist Church Christmas Concert – Mr. Nassar shared the poster he created to market the December 20, 2014 concert at the SALT Block. Mr. Wolfe has posted concert information on the webpage and Facebook page.

2015 Pangean MUN – The next Model UN program will be March 9-10, 2015. Dr. Humphreys reported that the organizing committee did not meet this month, but everything is on track, with all topics decided for next year. Their meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, and they plan to meet in November. He said they would begin signing up student participants from the schools in late December or January. The keynote speaker has not yet been discussed.

Dr. Love asked if position papers would be prepared next year, and Dr. Humphreys said a group of high school students from the school attached to Lenoir-Rhyne University plans to prepare them.

2015 IFFC – Mr. Nassar said there have been recent changes in regards to the International Film Festival for Children. In order to expand the number of students participating, he proposed the set of films be shown at three different locations, Monday through Thursday, and the three superintendents have agreed. The festival will be held April 27-30, 2015. He said the plan is for Hickory Public Schools and all private school students to view the scheduled movies at the SALT Block Auditorium, Catawba County Schools students at Maiden High School, and Newton-Conover City Schools students at Newton-Conover Middle School. He said the three school systems agreed on the dates, and next they will need to agree on the movies for 2015.

Mr. Nassar discussed the need for three different crews of volunteers to help at the three school festival sites each day, unless the schools decide not to show the movies on all four days, which



is an option. He said 1-2 people are needed from the Council each day, and it could be a different person in the mornings and afternoons. He will manage the volunteer sign-up process using a "live" Google document link. Dr. Love will seek additional volunteers who might help.

Mr. Nassar said a logo competition would be held in the schools, beginning next week and running through the end of 2014. This time, he said 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners would be selected by grade levels, with one of the logos chosen for use in all festival publicity, regardless of their grade level.

**New Business:** Mr. Nassar plans to begin keeping an attendance chart for the Council.

Members discussed their annual Christmas Party. They decided to hold a holiday get-together in place of their regular December meeting again this year, for HIC members and their spouses. Possible locations were considered, with two chosen: Bistro 127 and the Thai restaurant behind McDonald's; both restaurants are located in Viewmont. Marc Swinnen will contact Bistro 127 and Alex Mezei will contact the Thai restaurant to inquire about their private meeting room and menu selections. The party will be held 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Thursday, December 18 is the first choice of dates, and Thursday, December 11, second choice. More information will be e-mailed to members after the restaurants are contacted.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 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 6:20 pm.



Hani Nassar, Chair  
Hickory International Council



Anne Starnes, Minutes Clerk