



**Our next meeting will be an abridged meeting
on December 19 during the Christmas dinner!**

- I. Welcome and introduction of guests:
The meeting started at 5:33pm.
In attendance were Ed Tashjian, Hani Nassar, Eric Brandon, Eddie Marlowe, Tracey Trimble, Nancy Greiner, Youth Council members Aastha Patel (Challenger), Anthem Avangeline (Challenger), Connor Dowdle (St Stephens), and Anne-Sophie DaCosta.
- II. GHIC financials (as of 11/19/24): Ed reviewed and explained the GHIC's financials to the board. Hani explained the purpose and goals of the Rudy Wright International Service Award ([RWISA](#)).
 1. General Bank account (BofA checking): \$17,292.79
 2. RWISA Bank account (BofA checking): \$1,372.18
 3. RWISA Business CD (First Horizon): \$20,000.00
 4. RWISA Bank account (First Horizon checking) \$110.00
 5. City account assigned to GHIC: \$11,700 (7/1/24 – 6/30/25)
 6. Expenses through 11/19/24: \$8,306.23
- III. Old Business
 1. Youth International Film Showcase 2024– final update: Hani decided not to contact the rest of the schools so close to the end of the year as he had not heard back from Hickory Public Schools. We can contact the schools in January or February as the link to the 2024 films will not expire. In addition, Nancy suggested targeting AIG kids and use the right buzzwords when talking to the teachers about bringing the YIFS to schools in the Unifour area.
 2. International Christmas Concert – December 14, 6pm – 10pm: The budget for this year has been requested in the form of two airline tickets for two Soprano singers from Chicago to Charlotte plus stage decorations. Attendees will be required to present a ticket (free) to attend; alternatively, we need ushers to count the people coming in in order to stay compliant with the maximum number of people allowed in the Drendel Auditorium which is 390 – 400.
 3. Christmas dinner (December 19, 6pm – 8pm): We will be having dinner and playing the [Dirty Santa](#) game at [Market on Main](#) (335 Main Ave SW, Hickory, NC). **Hani will send a survey to get a head count. Make sure you fill out the survey by the deadline.**
 4. Retreat planning (January 16, 5pm – 8pm): We will be meeting at the [Hickory Furniture Mart](#). Please plan to attend as we will be brainstorming ideas for the upcoming year.
 5. RWISA – A new idea: Hani will ask Mayor Guess, George Moretz and Landon Lane, among other prominent members of the community for input as we strive to select a worthy recipient for our yearly Service Award. GHIC members are also asked to ask around for good prospects.
 6. GHIC shirts: The online store will be reopened for members who wish to order a short-sleeve and a long-sleeve shirt bearing the GHIC logo, but who missed the previous deadline. Different styles, sizes and colors are available. Budget is \$50 for both shirts.
 7. Hickory FC promotion – A new idea: We can buy season tickets and give them away to promote the GHIC. Nancy suggests sponsoring the organization by distributing papers to

children in attendance, which will be signed by players. The papers could be printed with our logo and flags representing different countries.

8. GHIC Marketing and Promotions (notebook): Hani ordered the notebook and pen combo we agreed on.

IV. New Business

1. [Great Decisions 2025](#): Hani will be buying the books for the 2025 edition of Great Decisions.
2. A fun LR day and dinner took place on November 13, with 12 countries represented in tennis. GHIC sponsored the flags on the courts.
3. In Alexander County, the ESL Department is planning a Culture Day event for January 25, 2025. They may need volunteers, funds or both. We suggest they apply for one of our [\\$500 grants](#).
4. Liam Bailey from the Hickory Music Factory invites us to a [JOY TO THE WORLD performance](#) on December 7 (10am, 2pm and 7pm) at the Drendel Auditorium. Tickets are \$25 for adults.

V. Adjourn

There being no more topics of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52pm.

Anne-Sophie DaCosta, recorder

Greater Hickory International Council Mission Statement

The mission of the Greater Hickory International Council is to promote goodwill, cultural awareness, cooperation, education, and mutual respect through partnerships and community events.