



GHIC Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2025

PBML 2nd Floor Conference Room

5:30pm – 6:30pm

I. Welcome and Introduction of Youth Council Members and John Andersen.

The meeting started at 5:30 pm.

In attendance were Hani Nassar, Eric Brandon, Nancy Greiner, Connor Dowdle, Tracey Trimble, A. Avangeline, Payton Scronce, Ed Tashjian, Anne-Sophie DaCosta, John Andersen (Czech Republic), Chance Ly (Thailand), Thomas Shao (China), and Steven Chuang.

II. GHIC financials (as of 9/17/25)

- a. General Bank account (BofA checking): \$23,279.19
- b. RWISA Business CD (First Horizon): \$21,028.55
- c. RWISA Bank account (First Horizon checking) \$110.00
- d. City account assigned to GHIC: \$11,700 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26)
- e. Expenses 7/1/25 through 9/17/25: \$1,339.41

III. Old Business

- a. International Dance Day – Annual partnership with Hickory Ballet & Performing Arts: We agreed to a \$500 grant for this event which will take place on April 25, 2026. Dance classes will be offered at no cost (featuring dances from different countries). If you know of anyone who would be interested in leading a class, contact Adrienne at HBPA.
- b. Youth International Film Showcase 2025: This year, the Footcandle Film Festival is having two showings for youth, but only a few shorts are from foreign countries. Several GHIC members rated international films both for youth and for adults that were submitted for this year's festival. Closing ceremony will take place at the Hickory Community Theatre on Sunday, September 28 at 7pm. In preparation for next year's festival, we will start judging films as they are submitted starting in November 2025.
- c. Hickory FC national championship celebration: the GHIC will be renewing this partnership next year with autograph cards for attendees.
- d. Llamas de Hickory: We will be renewing the partnership and are discussing ideas for more crowd engagement (i.e., Jersey giveaway on game day)
- e. GHIC brochure: We discussed draft #5. Connor will update and send for final approval.
- f. GHIC business cards: Our youth council members will get new cards and GHIC email addresses.
- g. Model United Nations: So far, no school or organization has been willing to host a competition. Maybe ask NCSSM Morganton? Maybe start small with two committees and two topics, then expand the following year.
- h. Sister Cities – trip to Alternburger Land: The trip featured daily performances by musicians from both countries. It was a very positive experience. A trip will be planned every two years. Its theme will be tailored to the participants. A business exchange and a soccer exchange are already in the planning stages.
- i. Annual Meeting / Retreat: We need 3 hours to discuss our strategic plan, goals, and vision for the GHIC. A possible date would be in January.
- j. Christmas Dinner: December 18 from 6pm to 8pm. This will replace our monthly meeting. Location TBA but possibly same as last year (Market on Main).
- k. GHIC Christmas Concert: December 20 at the Drendel Auditorium.

New Business

- l. City funding allocation to GHIC July 2025 – June 2026 (GHIC fiscal year is January – December). The City allocated \$11,700 again this year.
- m. GHIC shirts for new Youth Council Members: the store has been reopened for the new members wanting to order a shirt with our logo. Members can order up to \$50 at no cost. Anything over \$50 has to be paid by the member. Please make sure that you plan to attend and participate in GHIC activities before ordering. Here is the order link <https://ghichky.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>.
- n. Inauguration of Summer McGee, the new LR President, is scheduled for 10/16/25, 3:30-5:30 at the PE Monroe Auditorium. Everyone is invited to attend.
- o. Vietnam flag at the library: since the flag displayed was selected by a founding member of the International Council, we feel that it is okay to leave it as-is. We might add a plaque explaining why that particular flag was chosen.

IV. Adjourn

There being no more topics of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

Anne-Sophie DaCosta, recorder

Next meeting will be October 16, 2025 at 5:30pm in the PBML 2nd floor conference room

Greater Hickory International Council

Mission Statement

"The mission of the Greater Hickory International Council is to act as a forum for the local and global international community and to act as a liaison between that community and the local governments in order to promote goodwill, mutual understanding, cooperation, education, and respect among citizens."