



GHIC Monthly Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2025

YMCA Maple Room - 701 1st St. NW, Hickory

5:30pm – 6:30pm

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting started at 5:35pm. In attendance were Hani, Ed, Avangeline, Tracey, Thomas, Connor, Nancy, and Anne-Sophie.

II. GHIC financials (as of 11/19/25)

- a. General Bank account (BofA checking): \$19,333.72
- b. RWISA Business CD (First Horizon): \$21,128.55. CD (3.25%) start date 11/7/25 for 7 months
- c. RWISA Bank account (First Horizon checking) – moved \$105.00 to the Business CD
- d. City account assigned to GHIC: \$11,700 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26)
- e. Expenses 7/1/25 through 10/15/25: \$5,300.64

III. Old Business

- a. GHIC brochure (approval of final version and next steps): Connor will send the final for one last review to make sure it contains all the programs we are involved with and a short description of each.
- b. Model United Nations Conference (update NCSSM Morganton): John Zimmerman, Chair of Humanities at NCSSM, wants to plan MUN during the NCSSM fall school break (first or second week in October). There will be a meeting with John in December to create a timeline. Note that MUN takes about 9 months to plan and coordinate.
- c. Annual Meeting / Retreat – 1/15/26 5:30pm – 7:30pm: possible locations for the retreat are the Hickory Furniture Mart, The Maple Room at the YMCA, or the Patrick Beaver library.
- d. GHIC Christmas dinner Dec. 18, 6pm – 8pm at Market on Main. Hani sent an email listing everyone planning to attend. Please make sure to contact Hani if you are not on the list or if you are bringing a guest.
- e. GHIC International Christmas Concert Dec. 20 Drendel Auditorium. The board agreed to grant \$2,000 to the Romanian Baptist Choir like it was allotted in our yearly budget.
- f. GHIC shirts: The orders were picked up November 19 after the meeting. Reach out to Hani to collect your items.

IV. New Business

- a. International Film Showcase 2026: Every year, there are roughly 120 international films to screen (some shorts and some full-length features, as well as documentaries). If you have signed up to be a judge, you will receive an email from Alan Jackson (Footcandle) to set you up with a Film Freeway account so you can start screening. Final selections will be made in July 2026.
- b. Great Decisions Discussions 2026 (Jan 27 – Mar 17, 2026): Here is a [link to the topics](#) for this year. If you are interested in participating, please reach out to Hani. Nancy wants to be added to the distribution list.

c. Other

This is what we are planning to discuss during our January retreat:

- i. Develop a strategic plan for the next 3 years.
- ii. Agree on a GHIC program focus
- iii. Finding candidates for the Rudy Wright International Service Award (RWISA)
- iv. Attracting more youth for leadership positions
- v. Combine our efforts with Sister Cities

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Saturday, December 6 at 10am, 2pm and 7pm: "[Joy to the World](#)" Concert at the Drendel Auditorium (SALT Block).
- Monday, December 8 at 5:30pm: Eddie Marlowe's mayoral swearing-in ceremony at the Town of Long View [Inauguration of Eddie Marlowe](#).
- Monday, December 8 at 5:30pm. [Jingle Bell Bash](#). Let Hani know if you want to attend. Hani may have some free tickets. Tickets are currently \$130 for two with coupon code SECRETSANTA.
- **Next meeting will be the Christmas dinner on December 18, 2025 at 5:30pm at Market on Main.**

V. Adjourn

There being no more topics of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm.

Anne-Sophie DaCosta, recorder

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."