



GREATER HICKORY INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

GHIC Monthly Meeting Minutes October 16, 2025 PBML 2nd Floor Conference Room 5:30pm – 6:30pm

- I. Welcome and Introductions
The meeting started at 5:35pm. In attendance were Hani Nassar, Connor Dowdle, Tracey Trimble, A. Avangeline, Payton Scronce, Ed Tashjian, Anne-Sophie DaCosta, John Andersen, Chance Ly, and Thomas Shao.
- II. GHIC financials (as of 10/15/25)
 - a. General Bank account (BofA checking): \$22,779.19
 - b. RWISA Business CD (First Horizon): \$21,028.55
 - c. RWISA Bank account (First Horizon checking) \$105.00 (dormant service charge \$5.00)
 - d. City account assigned to GHIC: \$11,700 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26)
 - e. Expenses 7/1/25 through 10/15/25: \$2,006.64
- III. Old Business
 - a. Youth International Film Showcase 2025 (sponsorship): grant of \$3000 approved for the Footcandle Film Festival 2026 Edition.
 - b. GHIC brochure (approval): Connor sent the final draft for approval.
 - c. GHIC business cards discussion (Board liabilities): Nonprofit organizations can face liability issues if they provide business cards to volunteers, as this may create an expectation of employment and lead to potential legal claims. It's important to manage volunteer relationships carefully to avoid any misunderstandings about their status and responsibilities.
 - d. Model United Nations Conference (NCSSM Morganton): Hani had a meeting on October 17. NCSSM showed interest in hosting MUN in the coming years.
 - e. Annual Meeting / Retreat: January 15, 2026 from 5:30 to 8:00. Location TBD.
 - f. **GHIC Christmas dinner Dec. 18, 6pm – 8pm at Market on Main**: If you want to participate in our [Dirty Santa game](#), bring a wrapped gift of about \$15 value. Please RSVP to Hani so we can get a head count.
 - g. GHIC International Christmas Concert Dec. 20 Drendel Auditorium: Food will be served in the Kaiser Community Room after the concert.
 - h. Inauguration of Summer McGee, the new LR President: some of our members attended.
 - i. GHIC shirts for new Youth Council Members: the store re-opens every month if anyone wants a GHIC shirt. Link to order: <https://ghichky.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>
- IV. New Business
 - a. Italian Festival summary/Sister City: The first Italian Festival in Hickory was a success. Hani talked to the Italian consul from Charlotte regarding Sister Cities.
 - b. Global Leadership Conference at LR on Sept. 20 – summary: Chance, Connor and Avangeline participated.
 - c. GHIC 2026 pocket planners: we received an order of 150 planners. 75 will go to Arts Culture Catawba.
- V. Adjourn
There being no more topics of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm.

Anne-Sophie DaCosta, recorder

Next meeting will be November 20, 2025 at 5:30pm. Meeting room TBD.

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."