



GHIC Christmas Dinner / Monthly Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2025

Market on Main – 335 Main AVE SW Ste A, Hickory

6:00pm – 8:00pm

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting started at 6:00pm. In attendance were Hani Nassar, Amal Nassar, Ed Tashjian, A. Avangeline, Eddie Marlowe, Tracey Trimble, Thomas Shao, Connor Dowdle, Connor's Payton, Nancy Greiner, Jason Savage, Bryson Savage, John Andersen, Vadym Rogynskyi, Victoria Morales, Chance Ly, and Anne-Sophie DaCosta.

II. GHIC expenses as of 11/19/25

- a. Expenses 7/1/25 through 11/19/25: \$9,557.16

III. Old Business

- a. GHIC brochure: The final version is still not approved. Connor to forward to group.
- b. Model United Nations Conference (update NCSSM Morganton): The meeting in December with John Zimmerman, Chair of Humanities at NCSSM, did not take place as of 12/18/25.
- c. Annual Meeting / Retreat – 1/15/26 5:30pm – 7:30pm: will take place in The Maple Room at the YMCA. This is what we are planning to discuss at the retreat:
 - i. Develop a strategic plan for the next 3 years.
 - ii. Agree on a GHIC program focus.
 - iii. Explore candidates for the 2026 Rudy Wright International Service Award (RWISA).
 - iv. Attract more youth for GHIC Advisory Board.
 - v. Explore ways to combine GHIC efforts with Sister Cities

IV. New Business

- a. International Film Showcase 2026: if you signed up to be a judge, you will receive an email from Alan Jackson (Footcandle) to start screening some of the submissions. 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. Connor showed interest and is welcome to attend. Hani will include him on the next email.
- c. Other: We need suggestions for the Rudy Wright International Service Award. Consider people, businesses or nonprofits that do work aligned with our mission as possible recipients.

Next meeting will be the Annual Retreat on January 15, 2025 at 5:30pm at the YMCA (Maple Room).

V. Adjourn

There being no more topics of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

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."