



GHIC Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2026

Hickory YMCA Maple Room
701 1st St NW, Hickory, NC 28601

- I. Welcome & roll call
The meeting started at 5:15pm. In attendance were Hani Nassar, Eric Brandon, A. Avangeline, Payton Scronce, Nancy Greiner, Tracey Trimble, Thomas Shao, Connor Dowdle, Chance Ly, and Anne-Sophie DaCosta.
- II. February meeting minutes were approved.
- III. GHIC financials as of 3/19/26:
 - a. Checking (Bank of America): \$15,731.64
 - b. RWISA Business CD (First Horizon): \$21,128.55. CD (3.25%) start date 11/7/25 for 7 months
 - c. City funds assigned to GHIC: \$11,700 (7/1/25 – 6/30/26)
 - d. Expenses 7/1/25 through 3/19/26: \$9,273.46
- IV. Old Business
 - a. RWISA – Rebuild for next year – Tracey will chair the subcommittee. Connor and Anne-Sophie volunteered to be on the subcommittee. Great Decisions members could possibly be asked to help judge applicants and/or find applicants for next year's award.
 - b. GHIC brochure – Still awaiting MUN confirmation (see next agenda item)
 - c. Model United Nations Conference – No update as of 3/18/26. NCSSM is looking into letting us use a space for free on their campus to host the event.
 - d. International Film Showcase 2026 – Film judging update: several of our members have started reviewing and judging international films for this year's festival.
 - e. GHIC Grants update: The Nashville in the Carolinas grant request was denied as it was not in this year's budget. The Llamas have no more room in their program for us to advertise, but we did allocate a \$500 grant to the Llamas for this year.
 - f. Corning Foundation Grant: GHIC need to submit a grant application in the amount of \$7,000. It would not cover expenses for MUN since NCSSM is not located in Catawba county.
 - g. GHIC website: Avangeline and Chance are spearheading the revamp.
 - h. Sister Cities – Let's wait for discussion after the 3/31/26 strategy meeting.
 - i. Event volunteers – We need volunteers for the following events:

Saturday, April 11

Event: Challenger High School International Festival & Quarterly Parents Meeting

Time: 9am-2pm

Location: St. Stephen's High School; 3205 34th Street Dr NE, Hickory, NC 28601

Saturday, April 18

Event: North Carolina Science Trail Partner Piedmont West's STEM Trek 2026

Time: 10am-2pm

Location: Catawba Science Center; 243 3rd Ave NE, Hickory, NC 28601

Saturday, April 25 (2 Events)

Event #1: Hickory Ballet & Performing Arts' International Dance Day

Time: 9am-3pm

Location: Hickory Ballet & Performing Arts Studio; 116 3rd Street NW; Hickory, NC 28601

Event #2: Hickory Community Relations Council's Hickory Multicultural Festival

Time: 4pm-7pm

Location: Downtown Hickory; Under the Sails on the Square; 246 Union Square NW;
Hickory, NC 28601

V. New Business

- a. Marketing stuff (flashlights, etc.): We discussed best giveaway items bearing our logo. Hani received sample flashlights that may be good giveaways at events.
- b. Hickory FC sponsorship: four dates are available for the GHIC to set up a table and we will need volunteers to man it. The gates usually open at 6pm. We will have autograph cards for the children attending the games. Let us know if you can volunteer on one of the the following dates:
June 20
June 24
July 3
July 11
- c. One of our grants supported an event, "Up Close and Personal" with poet Haleh Liza Gafari, on March 15 at the Hickory Choral Society Rehearsal Hall.
- d. NoCo ARTS: creative director Kat Evans plans to host a new culture every year. On April 30 at 7pm, she is partnering with Alan Jackson's New State Cinema to show an Italian movie followed by Italian food. Hani suggested she filled out a grant, and for the GHIC to become involved in this yearly event.

VI. Adjourn

There being no more topics of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12pm.

Anne-Sophie DaCosta, recorder

Next meeting will be on April 16, 2026 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the YMCA Maple 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."