



SCL Annual Interest Group Report 2021

Interest group: Immigration

Co-chairs: S. Sheila Karpan & Joanne Bodner, SCLA

Processes, events and/or projects accomplished since January 1, 2021:

The Immigration Interest Group continued to meet by Zoom this past year. The schedule of meeting every two months was faithfully maintained. Members are committed to attend meetings, keep updated through a network of immigration resources and respond to action alerts. Some members have identified a particular focus area to monitor and share this information during the meetings. In addition to action alerts, occasional articles, videos, or websites are sent that contribute to members knowledge and understanding of this complex issue.

We participated in an art project made known to us by IFCLA, the Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America in St. Louis, Hostile Terrain 94, which was launched in 150 cities globally. An exhibition composed of approximately 3200 individually handwritten toe tags that represented migrants who died trying to cross the Sonoran Desert of Arizona from the mid-1990s through 2020. We were able to contribute 50 tags.

Our knowledge of what is happening at the southern border has been enhanced by firsthand reports of committee members who have volunteered in various locals. They have been able to describe the Hospitality Houses accommodations, protocols and ministering by local and national volunteers. We also learn about the ever-shifting numbers of guests, their personal stories, countries of origin and what were the push factors that caused them to leave their homes.

We initiated a Community-wide zoom Immigration Interest Panel consisting of SCLs who volunteered at Border Hospitality Houses.

**Processes, events and/or projects in progress since
January 1, 2021:**

We continue with updates by members in the following focus areas:

Policy, Federal Budget, DACA, Border Issues, ICE
Deportations/Policies, Climate Migration, Unaccompanied
Children, Farm, Meat & Dairy Workers, Trafficking, Racism, Local
Issues, and Church Issues

We are conscious of being aware of the immigration issue as it relates to the other interest groups (Care of Creation, Racism, Human Trafficking).

Up-to-date membership list:

- S. Therese Bangert
- Joanne Bodner, SCLA
- Terri Butel, SCLA
- S. Janet Cashman
- S. Arthel Cline
- S. Dolores Erman
- S. Mary Rachel Flynn
- S. Ruth Ann Hehn
- S. Donna Jean Henson
- S. Paula Rose Jauernig
- S. Frances Juiliano
- S. Sheila Karpan
- S. Mary Pat Lenahan
- S. Helen Therese Mack
- S. Marie Michael Mollis
- S. Mary Pat Murry
- S. Jean Anne Panisko
- Jim and Patte Paquette, SCLA
- S. Linda Roth
- S. Frances Russell
- S. Renee Washut
- Dana Yaussy, SCLA