



SCL Annual Interest Group Report 2022

Interest group: Immigration

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

Processes, events and/or projects accomplished in 2022:

The Immigration Interest Group has continued to meet by Zoom this past year and the schedule of meeting every two months was 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 information during the meetings. In addition to action alerts, occasional articles, videos, and webinars are sent that contribute to members knowledge and understanding of this issue which appears to only grow in complexity.

The Interest Group is updated and informed by members who are able to volunteer at various sites along the southern border. They have been able to describe the Hospitality Houses accommodations, protocols and ministering by local and national volunteers. This past year reports were given from Laredo, TX and El Paso, TX. These first-hand experiences included the ever-shifting numbers of guests, their personal stories, countries of origin and what push factors caused them to leave their homes.

A special effort in advocacy was made during Advent by publishing alerts each week before the Senate recessed. Through the SCL Daily News, readers were encouraged to call, write, text their Senators to act on the following: 1) The Farm Workforce Modernization Act, H.R. 1603, (2) DACA, American Dream, Promise Act. H.R. 6, (3) Anti-Human Trafficking, H.R. 6552 and (4) Afghan Adjustment Act, S. 4787; H.R. 8685. These Bills were awaiting passage in the Senate.

Process, events and/or projects still in progress:

Primarily the necessity of advocacy is emphasized and is an on-going effort by being informed and by reaching out to the larger community through the Daily News. This covers a range of options from communicating with politicians, writing letters to the editor, joining public demonstrations and by prayer.

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 consciously 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, SCL
- Joanne Bodner, SCLA, Co-chair
- Terri Butel, SCLA
- S. Janet Cashman, SCL
- S. Ruth Ann Hehn, SCL
- S. Paula Rose Jauernig, SCL
- S. Frances Juiliano, SCL
- S. Sheila Karpan, SCL, Co-chair
- S. Mary Pat Lenahan, SCL
- S. Helen Therese Mack, SCL
- S. Marie Michael Mollis, SCL
- S. Mary Pat Murry, SCL
- S. Jean Anne Panisko, SCL
- Jim and Patte Paquette, SCLA
- S. Linda Roth, SCL
- S. Renee Washut, SCL
- Dana Yaussy, SCLA
- S. Mary Rachel Flynn, SCL