

Reporting Meeting of 10 January 2022

Calendar of Events

Last Week: 1/03 Darlene Bower – RLI recap

This Week: 1/10 The Long Road to U.S. Citizenship,
Jan Owen, US C & IS

Next Week: 1/17 MLK Day – program TBA

Coming Up: 1/24 How to Die Online – Dr. Carla Sofka
1/31 Pizza Works; Joe Doolittle; Hybrid Meeting

Note: Regular Zoom Meetings are held Mondays at 6:30 pm, effective 1/1/2022. Check your e-mail inbox the day of the meeting for the computer Zoom ID# and Password, as well as the phone number you can use to phone in if using your cell phone to participate.

Please give suggestions for future programs to Darlene Bower & Dan Stec.

Find us at bhblrotary.org and on Facebook

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves

The Long Road to US Citizenship — Janice M. Owen

Jan Owen, Community Relations Officer, United States Citizenship & Immigration Services, was introduced by Darlene Bower who said that the speaker had been recommended to the club by Gini Whetten. Jan delivered what had been designed as a one-hour presentation, within BHBL Rotary's limited time slot.

USCIS is one of seven agencies constituting the Department of Homeland Security. It provides services including issuing work permits and green cards. It interviews applicants for citizenship. It has no law-enforcement powers. It has 88 field offices in the US divided into 16 districts in four regions. Upstate NY has field offices in Buffalo and Albany with a sub-office in Syracuse.

Every day it welcomes 2000 new citizens, 2100 new permanent residents and issues 7000 green cards. It conducts 148,000 national-security background checks and 13,000 fingerprint checks daily.



Several definitions were discussed. An Immigrant is a foreign national who resides permanently in the country. Non-immigrants include visitors, workers and students. Parolees are permitted to enter for a specific purpose for a specific time period. (Unrelated to the term in law enforcement). Illegally-present entered without inspection, stayed longer than permitted or violated a non-immigrant status. (Replaces the former term Illegal alien.)

Eligibility for Lawful Permanent Residence involves avoidance of disease, addictions, mental impairment, criminal record, membership in terrorist groups, involvement in espionage, crimes involving moral turpitude and likeliness of becoming a public charge. An immigrant can apply for US citizenship after living in the US for 5 years, 3 years in the case of a spouse.

More information is available at Buffalo.CommunityRelations@uscis.dhs.gov. and from Jan at 716.843.7934

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Darlene announced that our meeting on January 31 is presently scheduled to be hybrid, to be held at the Pizza Works on Route 50, being both in-person and virtual on Zoom. It may be virtual-only due to the surge in covid. Stayed tuned.
- Dan Stec reported that the club has received thanks for its contribution of \$1440 to the Giving Tree Fund.
- Cindy Peterson was proposed for club membership at the last board meeting and enthusiastically approved.
- The next BOD meeting will be held Thursday at 4:30 on Zoom.
- Darlene is working the content and scheduling of fireside chats with the club's four new members.
- It was reported that the Brownell's have had covid, and that Albert LaRue of Charlton died of it last week.
- Dues are due. \$85 for half year. We were reminded to send our voluntary Happy Dollars and dues to Steve Geene.
- Peter Sawyer reported beginning plans for projects with The Stomping Grounds Camp this winter.
- Maryellen Symer gave thanks for recent food-pantry donations. Keep 'em coming!
- It was announced that the Lions Club is considering planting a club in BHBL. They are very strong in Galway, where Twin-Bridges Rotary is involved in planting a satellite Rotary Club.

Reported by Fred Bailly