

## Counting on Courtesy, in School and in Life

As I mentioned in last month's page, September represented to me and my siblings the start of the school year. We were all together in the same school for one year. I was in the eighth grade, and my youngest sibling was in kindergarten. It made for a busy and sometimes chaotic start to the day. Carpool line was always interesting and did not prepare me for when my children were in grade school. Our grade school allowed drivers to pick up from the carpool line or park in an adjacent lot for your kids to walk over. This made for a hectic and scary parking lot, more akin to a racetrack. Miraculously, everyone was well behaved, children and parents (drivers) alike. Maybe people were more cautious or polite or considerate then. I sound like my grandparents reminiscing on better days.

Recently, my husband and I were out running errands and we came to a four way stop. The driver to our left had their turn signal on making it seem that they would be turning right after they stopped. They did neither, ran the stop sign and didn't turn right. Thankfully, my husband was watching and waited to see if the driver would do as they were supposed to and did not proceed through the intersection. We were very lucky and avoided an accident. However, what continues to amaze me is the flagrant disregard of traffic laws. In fact, more than once recently in polite conversation in different settings, the topic of bad drivers has come up.

It seems I am not the only person that has noticed this uptick in bad driving behavior. What can we do about it? We can observe National Courtesy Month in September and practice being kind towards others, including drivers on the road.

September is also National Suicide Prevention Month and the LBA is participating in a walk on November 1st in conjunction with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Suicide affects many, including families and friends of those individuals that may have attempted or committed suicide. Please consider participating in the walk at Waterfront Park.

This month is also Hispanic Heritage Month. President Lyndon Johnson originally declared it Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968. It was later expanded to a month under President Ronald Reagan as a result of legislation filed by U.S. Representative Esteban Torres. Festivities around the country will recognize contributions of Hispanic people from September 15 through October 15. Some notable Hispanics in history include the first Hispanic to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Sonia Sotomayor; the first Hispanic U.S. Attorney General, Alberto Gonzales; and the first Cuban-American U.S. Senator, Mel Martinez.

Hispanics in Hollywood and the arts include Salma Hayek, Carlos Santana, Jennifer Lopez, Lin-Manuel Miranda, the late Fernando Lamas and the late Cesar Romero. And there are many more.

Hispanics are also entrepreneurs, professional athletes and musicians. My father and family were business owners. My uncle was a physician in Chicago. Louisville's Hispanic population is one of the fastest growing sectors in the community, growing over the last 20 years to more than 80,000 people per recent census data.

There are many other "months" in September, including National Rice Month and National Italian Cheese Month. I see these as an excuse to try something new. Eat out at a restaurant you don't usually go to. Look for some new and exciting places; Louisville has a very exciting and vibrant restaurant scene and we should support our local eating establishments and neighbors. So, celebrate by trying new foods, including Cuban sandwiches, Mexican street corn (an elote) or a paella Valenciana.

On a less tasty (but still important) note, we are still looking for individuals to participate in our Civics Committee and efforts revolving around the Rule of Law. Please contact me at [mfernandez@fhmlegal.com](mailto:mfernandez@fhmlegal.com), or LBA Executive Director Kristen Miller at [kmiller@loubar.org](mailto:kmiller@loubar.org), if you wish to serve on the committee or participate in one of several programs we are planning.

This year is also our 125th anniversary and we are celebrating with a family-friendly picnic party on September 7th. There will be food, drinks, party games and fun for all. You can take a pickleball class and/or scope out the competition in advance of the 3rd annual LBA Pickleball Palooza: Order on the Court event on October 26th. Please join us in celebrating our birthday at Goodbounce on River Road. Hope to see you there.



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*Maria*  
Maria A. Fernandez  
LBA President



*LtoR: Cuban sandwiches, Mexican street corn (an elote) and paella Valenciana Photos courtesy of Wikipedia.*