



## FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT **Danielle Morris**

### Welcome to Fall

**F**all has always felt less like an ending to me and more like the first sign of something new.

The colors change. The air gets sharper. The landscape shifts almost overnight. And here in Oregon, the fall palette looks like someone raided Stuttgart's paint catalog and decided restraint was unnecessary - reds, yellows, oranges, browns, and greens mixed against our evergreens, winding roads, and familiar waypoints.

It's a wonderful time to drive. But as we glide from summer into fall, the roads change too.

School is back in session. Bicycles are still plentiful. Kids are walking, riding, and driving to school. Harvest equipment remains part of the scenery in many parts of Oregon. Roads and bridges can turn surprisingly slick - even icy - while the sky above stays bright and sunny.

And then there's football. On certain Saturdays, Eugene and Corvallis can turn a perfectly reasonable north-south drive into something requiring a good deal more patience. Knowing what's happening along your route matters almost as much as knowing the route itself.

Keep enjoying the roads - just keep thinking ahead.

Some of you winterize by driving south to Arizona or Palm Springs, which is a genuinely elegant solution. Others put the car on a tender and wait for spring. Some swap tires. Some just keep driving. Whatever your approach, a little preparation now pays off later - check your tires,

and remember that the ones that felt magnificent on a warm July road may have a different opinion come a cold November morning.

Because our driving season doesn't stop. We have winter drives, SUV drives, and those spontaneous sunny-day drives when Oregon surprises us with a gorgeous winter afternoon that all but demands we find a road. We drive because we can - and I, for one, remain glad that I do.

There's plenty ahead for ORPCA, too: our Oktoberfest drive, the holiday party, and - before we know it - a new year, with new leadership and new chances to help build the experiences that make this region what it is.

And what a summer it's been! Multi-day tours, picnics, Cars and Coffees, more than a dozen drives, and countless miles and friendships along the way.

That may be the best part of fall. The air turns crisp enough to remind us we're alive. The roads stay inviting well into November. And while the temperatures may fall, the warmth of good company doesn't have to.

So watch the weather. Watch the tires. Watch for bicycles, kids, harvest equipment, and Saturday traffic. Then find a road. Find some friends. And drive. Fall isn't the end of our season — it's simply the beginning of the next one.

And remember, I am always available at [vicepresident@oregonpca.org](mailto:vicepresident@oregonpca.org). ■