

# President's Message

*by Frank O'Leary*



We hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends. It was nice to be able to enjoy the day in normal conditions.

Well, it is officially winter in Walla Walla, we've had a week of below freezing and the fog to go with it. We haven't had any snow in the valley, but the cold and fog have affected both the hunting and golf schedule. Hunting will get better, and the golf schedule will be limited from now until March.

The 2023 DKGNA Testing Season wrapped up with the Walla Walla test, on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Now most of our members are enjoying the fall hunting season and reaping the rewards of the training they put into their dogs. In 2023 the DKGNA had a robust testing schedule in the sense of number and types of tests, as well as locations. Our main challenge continues to be judges, not just the number and availability of judges, but the dramatic increase in the cost of judge's travel. Airline tickets have increased almost fifty percent over 2021.

Even with these challenges, we continue to grow and offer more testing opportunities in more geographic locations than ever before. It is anticipated that the 2024 DKGNA Test Schedule will reflect even more growth and geographic expansion. Please make sure that you have spoken with your Regional Director or local Test Coordinator about your testing needs ASAP as the schedule is taking form and we need to submit our dates by year's end.

The nominations for the Board of Directors positions of Vice-President, Secretary, and Desert Mountain Regional Director closed on November 26<sup>th</sup>. We received no other nominations other than those put forth by the Board of Directors. Therefore, Corey McGehee will serve as Vice-President, Cierra Bennett will be the DKGNA Secretary, and Alex Losee will continue as our Desert Mountain Regional Director. Each of these terms will run from January 1, 2024, through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

DKGNA Annual Members will be receiving their 2024 Annual Membership Dues notice by mid-December. Notices will be sent through PayPal to each of the current Annual Members.

We hope that everyone has a great hunting season and can be with their families during the holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!  
Frank J. O'Leary, President  
DKGNA  
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