

Attn: Weekend/Newsroom Photo Assignment Editors



PENNSYLVANIA MEMORY CHAMPIONSHIP

Contact: **Rhonda Hess**
PA Memory Chairperson
USA National Judge
Phone: 717-991-2334
rhonda@rhessassoc.com

Memory Competition in February at Hershey Senior High School! **“Mental Athletes” Compete in Memory Games**

What: 5th Annual Pennsylvania Memory Championship
Where: Hershey Senior High School, 550 Homestead Road, Hershey, PA
When: Saturday, February 13, 2010, 9AM-2PM
Who: 25 High School students from Central PA

Have you ever seen anyone recall a complete deck of 52 playing cards in perfect order in less than 3 minutes? Contrary to popular belief, our memory can and does grow if we nourish and exercise it. The contestants in the **5th Annual PA Memory Championship, February 13**, will prove we can learn and retain massive quantities of information if we put our minds to work.

There is also something to be said about the students in our region who have risen to meet these daunting challenges. Since the inception of a high school division, established by the USA Memory Championship in New York, the high schools of Central Pennsylvania have held the national title. Hershey High School placed first in the nation last year and in 2008. Mechanicsburg Area School District held the national title in 2006 and 2007. East Pennsboro High Schooler Brice Morey was the youngest individual to ever compete against corporate consultants and national champions for the actual title of national champion.

Central Pennsylvania's high school contenders have also set national records. Among them is Erin Hope Luley's (Mechanicsburg) 2007 poetry record that presently stands at 206 words in 15 minutes. Hamisha Patel set the record for the most Names and Faces memorized by recalling the first and last names of over 71 individuals in 15 minutes.

Last year's competition in New York was quite challenging as The Briarcliff High School of New York went head to head against Hershey to take the traditional championship title from the Commonwealth. In an even more interesting turn of events, Michael Schneider of the Briarcliff team is presently a student at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania! He has recently organized a collegiate memory team at Gettysburg and has extended an invitation to other national colleges and universities to establish a collegiate memory league. Students at Penn State University are presently considering the challenge. Michael and his team will be guest judges at this year's Pennsylvania High School Championship in Hershey.

This year students from Mechanicsburg, Cumberland Valley and Hershey High Schools will go head-to-head in a series of 5 mental athletic events. Contestants will attempt to memorize: a string of 1000 digits, 200 random words, 99 names and faces, an unpublished 50-line poem, and an entire deck of playing cards.

Founder, Pennsylvania High School Memory Championship, USA National Memory Judge and local business owner, **Rhonda Hess, President of Fully Fit to Lead®** teams with high school teachers to present the 5th Annual Pennsylvania Regional Memory Championship.

The winning team travels to New York City to compete in the USA National Games in March 2010.

Spectators are welcome: Free Admission

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