



Building Community through the Arts

For Immediate Release

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Jordan Knouse Competes at State Poetry Out Loud Competition

Jordan Knouse, a senior at Newport High School, competed in the state Poetry Out Loud competition on March 4. The competition was held at the State Museum auditorium.

Knouse was one of 14 state competitors among more than 3,000 high school students who participated in this year's competition, with the help and support of teachers/coaches in 73 schools and community organizations across Pennsylvania. Created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, Poetry Out Loud encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance, and competition. The contest is facilitated through the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, working with regional partner organizations.

Each student memorized and prepared three poems selected from print and online poetry anthologies. All 14 students performed in the first two rounds of competition, with the top five competing in the third and final round. Students were judged on voice and articulation, physical presence, dramatic appropriateness, evidence of understanding, overall performance, and accuracy.

Knouse recited two poems: *Abandoned Farmhouse* by Ted Kooser in round 1 and *Suppose* by Phoebe Cary in round 2. Newport High School teacher Elizabeth Helmick coached Knouse.

Sulette Lange, a junior at Hazleton Area Arts and Humanities Academy in Luzerne County, was named Pennsylvania's 2024 Poetry Out Loud (POL) state champion. She will represent Pennsylvania in the national Finals in Washington, DC, beginning April 30.

"Poetry Out Loud supports our Commonwealth's students' mastery of critical skills for success in school and the workplace," said Karl Blischke, PCA Executive Director. "On behalf of the Council and staff of the PCA, we congratulate our 14 state competitors for their hard work and accomplishments and extend best wishes to Sulette Lange as she goes on to compete at the national championship."

Perry County Council of the Arts is the regional partner for Poetry Out Loud. The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts is a state agency that supports jobs, builds communities, inspires lifelong learning, promotes the Commonwealth, and sparks innovation through its portfolio of funding opportunities. The PCA reaches all 67 counties in Pennsylvania through its investments in arts and cultural production, creative

Perry County Council of the Arts

PO Box 354 • Newport, PA • 17074
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PCCA Gallery: One S. Second Street in Newport
Landis House: 67 N. Fourth St. in Newport





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placemaking, accessibility, capacity building, arts in education, and the growth and sustainability of creative small businesses and creative entrepreneurs. To learn more about the PCA, visit arts.pa.gov.

For more information on other programs & services provided by the Perry County Council of the Arts (PCCA), please call 717-567-7023 or visit www.perrycountyarts.org. PCCA receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. Additional support comes from a growing list of members, and numerous corporations and private foundations throughout Central Pennsylvania.



Newport English teacher Elizabeth Helmick and students from her poetry class at the state competition.

Photos below by Commonwealth Media Services

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