



RADIO READER

SUMMER 2025

Radio Eye's Big Move

Welcome back to Radio Eye's Radio Reader! This summer's issue includes updates on our new space, comments on our new look and new smart device app, results of our recent listener survey, donor recognition, and volunteer features with two board members.

We've been in our new offices at 162 Old Todds Rd since Friday, April 4th, and open to volunteers since Monday, April 21. Our new office boasts a kitchenette, private bathroom, seated conversation area, spacious offices, and a recording area more isolated from the conversations and noise of the office area.

Feedback on the space has been overwhelmingly positive, especially regarding the amount of natural light, office ambiance, and accessible location. Volunteers have particularly appreciated the variety of recording spaces we have, and we've used their comments on the recording pods to install quiet portable fans in each booth, keeping them cooler and more airy.

We're also excited to announce that thanks to several generous donors (see pp. 10-11), we received the funding to purchase two additional recording pods! Installed

From top: Volunteer Richard Lucas records Sports News on our first day in the new office. Second, our new merch set-up, located in the entry, better showcases available clothing and accessories. Third, Bill Sallee in the new production room.



CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Radio Eye's Big Move (from p. 1)

during the last week of July, they are a different manufacturer and model than our first two, and although they will have a similar square footage, their square shape will allow for more elbow room in each direction. That brings us to a total of five recording booths, meaning that we can have more volunteers recording in the studio each week than ever before.

Looking forward to the rest of 2025, Radio Eye is planning to finish furnishing and decorating the new office, host an open house and welcome new volunteers in September, celebrate volunteer achievement at two volunteer appreciation parties in October, and continue to improve our offerings for listeners - including by bringing back our Celebrity Reader Week in November.

Now that we're settled into our new space, Radio Eye is also looking forward to re-connecting with our listeners and communities. Since the pandemic lockdown, we've had to reduce the number of health fairs and speaking engagements in which we've participated, especially outside of the Lexington area. With our new base of operations, however, we intend to resume making connections with each and every part of the Commonwealth, helping more visually impaired and print-disabled folks access our service.

From top: Our built-in booth and two rectangular recording booths. Next, framed floorplans of our three different offices. Third, our coffee and tea bar, part of a larger kitchenette. Fourth, an inside look at our new recording set-up. Fifth, our newly installed fourth and fifth booths - so roomy!



IAAIS Conference 2025

In June, Lucy and Greta traveled to Lawrence, Kansas to participate in the 2025 International Association of Audio Information Services (IAAIS) Conference, where they attended panels, visited Audio-Reader's studios, networked with other professionals in the radio reading industry, and had a wonderful time.



More than fifteen reading services were represented by attendees, joined by members of related services such as newspapers, Experts on Blindness, and Make Philanthropy Work. Several IAAIS members presented panels in their areas of expertise, including topics like content challenges, technology questions and innovations, audio description, outreach, including volunteers and staff with blindness or low vision, and volunteer appreciation. Breakout groups and discussions focused around shared questions and concerns were encouraged, as well as celebrating successes and re-counting solutions that might apply to the other services.

This opportunity to talk through common issues among reading services is one of the things Lucy really values about attending IAAIS conferences. "There are so few people that do the exact same things that we do," she pointed out, "that it's really invigorating to be able to meet with them and talk with people who know exactly what we're talking about." Greta particularly enjoyed meeting folks from the other reading services for the first time and getting to learn about other services' solutions to common dilemmas and processes for volunteers.

From top: Antique and retro radios on display in the NPR studios that share a building with Audio-Reader. Second, a conference attendee group photo following an ice cream social hosted by Audio-Reader at their studios.



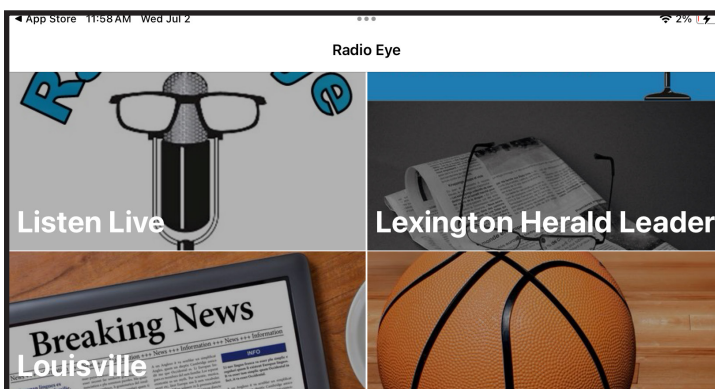
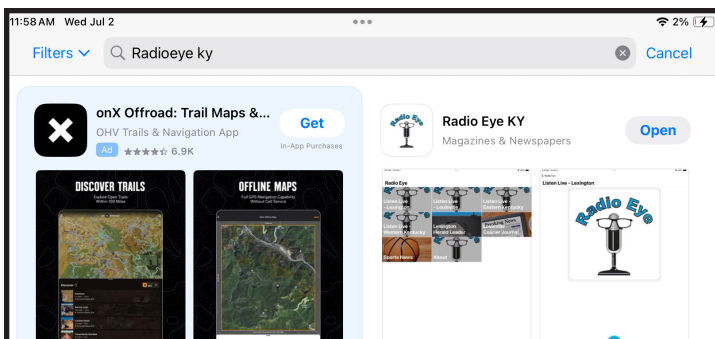
APP UPDATE

Radio Eye KY App Available Now!

As previewed in the last newsletter, Radio Eye commissioned an app for Android and Apple products that plays both our Lexington livestream and recorded copies of our local, sports, regional, and national news.

With an increasing number of listeners using smartphones or tablets and the consistent improvement of accessibility features on these devices, we anticipate that this will drastically expand access to our service - connecting more Kentuckians to their communities and helping them live independent, fulfilling lives.

To download, open the app store on your device and search “Radio Eye KY”



INTERN SPOTLIGHT

Graduating Intern Tyler Baker

Tyler Baker is a 22 year old recent graduate of Transylvania University with a BA in music studies and a minor in digital arts and media. Tyler interned with Radio Eye during our Spring 2025 move and his last semester at Transy, coming to us with vital technical knowledge and a background in music production as well as computer support and maintenance. Passionate about music, Tyler fronts a local psych rock band called Venus in Furs. In his free time, Tyler enjoys videogames and spending time with his girlfriend (pictured right).

We're exceptionally grateful to Tyler for interning with Radio Eye during our transition and being so flexible during the move, we absolutely wish him the best in his future endeavors.



Thank you, Alice Dehner!

Alice and Gary Dehner love Radio Eye because “it is person-to-person. It is a new way to give back to the community and speak (literally) to people who tell us they really appreciate our efforts.” Effective last June, Alice has left her role of Secretary on the Radio Eye Board, feeling that Radio Eye “is all settled and ready to go” after our successful relocation.

Alice has been a stalwart at Radio Eye for almost two decades. When she was a new volunteer in 2007, Radio Eye Alice remembers the construction of our Northside Library studio as “making lemonade out of lemons.” She and her husband Gary live read the Lexington Herald-Leader and Louisville Courier Journal for many years, becoming a board member in April 2017 and transitioning to remote reading with Gary several mornings per week when our studios closed during the 2020 COVID shutdown. Alice is particularly pleased that we never went off the air during the pandemic shutdown. She and Gary even shifted to reading the Washington Post when the Herald-Leader reduced their publications to only three days per week last year.

Alice has always said that Radio Eye is a place where “you don’t just show up,” working with long-time Board Chair David Hafley to improve and “make a more professional Board.” She says she’s proud of how



Radio Eye has survived through tough times, and that she and Gary really like the changes associated with our recent move. Alice will always fondly recall collaborating with volunteers such as Ann Samani and Blanca Michael-Ward as well long-time listeners and former board members Philip Rose and Mike Barnard, working with four consecutive Executive

Directors from Margaret Chase to Lucy Stone.

Concluding her recording of the Washington Post the day after her most recent office visit, Alice told listeners, “I am so proud of how Radio Eye has continued to grow during this period of transition.” Alice and Gary love to travel and spend time with family and friends, and they hope to spend more time doing so with Alice’s retirement from the Radio Eye board.

Our Newest Board Member

“During COVID, I started reading for Radio Eye as a way to volunteer and reach out to people,” says Angie Mimms, a remote reading volunteer from Louisville and Radio Eye’s newest board member. Like many others, Angie found that volunteer opportunities were limited or suspended during the pandemic. Radio Eye, however, relied entirely upon remote readers like Angie during the shutdown, volunteers who could record their readings at home and send the files to Radio Eye staff to be edited for broadcast. Angie now reads ninety minutes of programming for us per week in addition to her work as a board member, keeping listeners up to date on events in Louisville and in Madisonville.



Reading for Radio Eye also keeps Angie connected to her journalism background and career. “Reading for Radio Eye is a joy,” she says, and “I get to read from The Courier Journal, the paper I used to be a reporter for.” Angie’s career also included time as an editor for the Council of State Governments in Lexington and as a freelance writer for newspapers across the Commonwealth. She is similarly thoughtful about her volunteer work, telling us that “I think about my listeners during every

recording I make, striving to give them the best experience I can. And the bonus? I get to work with Radio Eye’s caring, fun staff.”

Accompanied by her husband Dave and daughter Anna, Angie has attended our Louisville Volunteer Appreciation Events for several years running, even driving out for one in Lexington. Angie is also one of the few Louisville-area volunteers that visited our former Northside Library studios. She’s read a variety of programs for Radio Eye over the years, compiling a library of a dozen “Kentucky Series” recordings of short stories written by authors from the Commonwealth. Angie can also be considered a “Kentucky

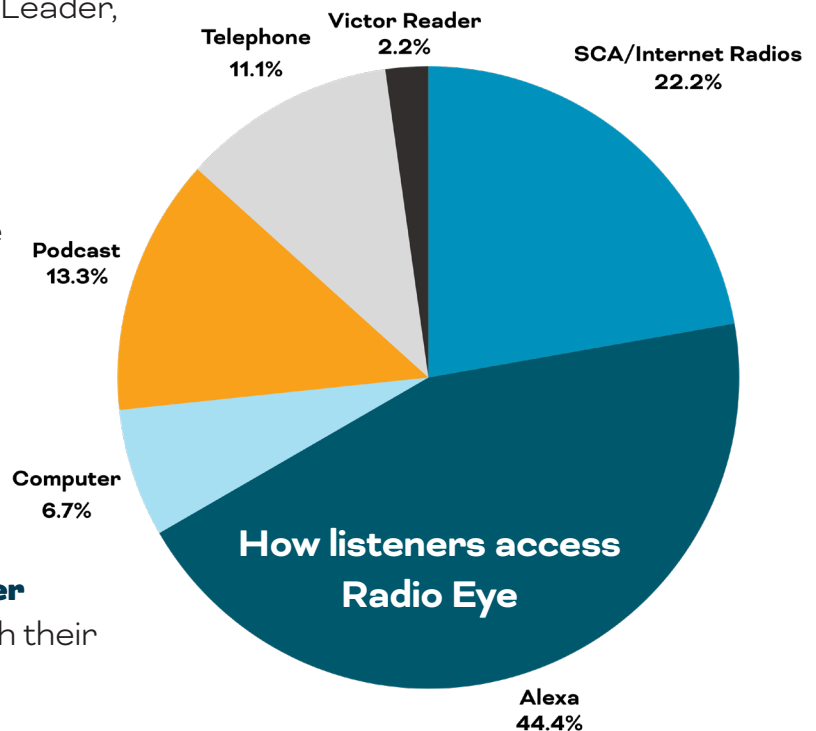
Writer,” having penned creative nonfiction work and in the process of writing a book of her own. A self-proclaimed “enthusiastic reader,” Angie also enjoys cooking and yoga. You can hear Angie’s recordings almost every week on our state-wide and Western Kentucky broadcasts.

LISTENER SURVEY 2024

Listeners say that Radio Eye is their connection to the outside world...

After sending listener surveys to over 250 listeners, we were able to make contact with 75, 42 of whom completed the survey. Here are some quick facts from we learned:

- **60%** of respondents listen to the Herald-Leader, **38%** to Courier Journal, and **40%** to a regional newspaper
- **80%** of respondents now have internet, **70%** have and use smartphones
- **84.2%** of respondents say they feel more informed about local news and issues when listening to Radio Eye. **78.9%** say that they feel informed about available local services.
- **62.2%** of respondents know more about health issues affecting themselves and the community than they did before listening to Radio Eye, and nearly a **quarter** have discussed something they heard with their doctor.



VOLUNTEER NEWS

In the calendar year 2024, **119 folks** volunteered with Radio Eye for a total of **6,081 hours**, an incredible achievement! **Twelve** of those volunteers spent over **100 hours** helping print-impaired Kentuckians access the written word.

With our increase in booth space, we will soon be able to accommodate more in-person volunteers. We will be contacting folks who have expressed interest in the last year, but if you are interested in returning to volunteering or know someone interested in volunteering for the first time, please email info@radioeye.org to express your interest! We hope to have our next orientation sessions in September. We are also looking for volunteers willing to read the News and Tribune newspaper and our Mystery Mix-Up program, both weekly recordings.



Radio Eye by the numbers...



Revenue: \$280,936

Expenses: \$280,936

In-kind donations (volunteers, community partners, studio office space, etc): **\$179,600**

Grants: **46%**

Donations, appeals, and giving challenges: **29%**

Reserve/Endowment income: **24%**

Program sponsorships: **1%**

Payroll and benefits: **73%**

Supplies, postage, and printing: **8%**

Equipment: **7%**

Professional/IT Services: **5%**

Outreach/training/seminars: **3%**

Advertising: **2%**

Volunteer/donor appreciation: **2%**

This has been such an exciting (and expensive!) time for Radio Eye! Throughout our history we have been lucky to have been housed inside other organizations. Because of that, our budget hasn't needed to include rent, utilities, etc. in the past and could instead focus solely on our operation and broadcast. We have always acknowledged that blessing while also bracing for change to come.

When the library asked us to vacate our lease – growing our budget (and funding it) to include new expenses became our biggest worry. Comparing square footage pricing, joining utility budget plans, finding coupon codes for new office materials - we have always striven to stretch a dollar as far as it could go. We are an organization that survives on \$100 donations. To be considered part of someone's list of giving is such an honor and we want you to feel comfortable with where your donations go.

Across the nation, contributions are down about 10% in the last year. Foundations are reducing the amount of grants they are accepting. Even more, the amount they are funding is decreasing. We've seen at least two of our long-term foundations shut down entirely. This is a really hard time for nonprofits.

This makes our 35th year on-air and we are still able to grow in new ways to serve our listeners. For those of you who chose and trust to give to Radio Eye – we cannot say thank you enough. In our move we were able to upgrade the majority of our equipment, add additional recording space, and create a comfortable and updated office environment. That is because of donors like yourself who believe in our mission. On behalf of our almost 10,000 listeners across Kentucky – thank you for allowing us to serve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seeking Board Members

Looking to give back to your community in a high-impact way? Want to add some service to your professional resume? Consider joining the Radio Eye Board. We meet officially five times per year, with the expectation of occasional attendance at outreach and volunteer events as well as regular communication via text and email.

We are seeking 2-3 individuals, particularly a treasurer, lawyers, and those with visual or print impairments.

Upcoming Events

New Studio Open House - Sept. 9

Come visit our new studio! We will be open to the public for tours, hors d'oeuvres, and drinks, with a chance to see how Radio Eye has grown.

Louisville Volunteer Appreciation - Oct. 7

Following the move this spring, we shifted our Louisville Volunteer Appreciation to this fall. Mingle with staff, board members, and fellow volunteers while enjoying drinks and hearty hors d'oeuvres at Ten20 Brewery

Lexington Volunteer Appreciation - Oct. 28

Save the date for our 2025 annual Volunteer Appreciation event in Lexington! All of the above, but this year we're heading to West Sixth Brewery in Lexington. Louisville volunteers also welcome.

NEW GRAPHICS

Looking a little different?

Your eyes aren't deceiving you, this newsletter looks a little different! During the move, Radio Eye hired a local graphic designer to create a fresh logo, updated signage, cohesive assets, and higher quality files for promotional materials.

Our goal for this shift was not to abandon the Mic Man or Mac, to erase nearly 35 years of tradition, or to make changes for changes sake, but simply to create a cohesive image as we stock up on new promotional materials and get back out into the community. Due to the age of some of our files, we don't have high enough resolution images of Mic or Mac to use them in all of the applications that we would like.



You'll still see the Mic Man and Mac from time to time in addition to our ocular waves logo and another helpful little buddy that hasn't been named quite yet. We're excited to finally be able to share them with you!

CONTRIBUTORS

Our community really came together to support Radio Eye's move and recording booth purchases. The following are all of the foundations and individuals who donated money to one (or several) of our fundraising campaigns for the new office and recording booths.

Thank you - we couldn't have done it without you.

FOUNDATIONS

- Alex G. Campbell Foundation
- Bluegrass Community Foundation
- BLUEgrass Runners
- CWF of Old Union Church
- DNR & Sons LLC
- E.O. Robinson Mountain Fund
- Employment Solutions
- Frances Hollis Brain Foundation, Inc
- George S. Weeks
- Group Six, Inc.
- Jerome S. & Grace H. Murray Foundation
- Kentucky School for the Blind Charitable Foundation
- Lexington KY Chapter #345 of AARP
- Lexington Lions Club
- Lexington Medical Society Foundation, Inc
- Lexington South Lions Club
- Linda Neville
- Matthews Family Foundation
- Maysville Lions Club
- NAI Isaac
- R. Keith Cullinan Family Foundation
- Second Presbyterian Church
- The Carl Family Foundation
- The Cralle Foundation, Inc.
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

INDIVIDUALS

- Teresa Apel
- Jack Banbury
- William B. Rogers Beasley
- Darryl & Mary Bennett
- Kirsten Benson
- David & Roi-Ann Bettez
- Blaine Biedermann
- M. Cary and Nancy Blaydes
- Janice Bohannon
- Joseph & Pamela Boldt
- Anne Bolton
- George Bond
- Leah Gayle Bourne
- William Bowden
- Tom Briggs
- Rod Brotherton
- Carolyn Brown
- Fred & Joanna Busroe
- Bruce Camenisch
- John & Cynthia Cantrell
- Jack & Robin Carrington
- Matthew Clarke
- Kathy Cleary
- Natasha Collier
- Anne Combs
- Robin & Bill Combs
- John Copeland
- Fred Copeland
- Wade Crabb
- Chauncey Curtz
- Anne & Harry Dadds
- Ken Dawkins
- Gary & Alice Dehner
- Vincent & Beverly DePhillips
- Don Diedrich
- Tom Dixon
- Kathryn Drydyk
- Jane Duncan
- Laura Embree
- Eric & Carolyn Everett
- Steve Farkus
- Cliff & Cathy Feltham
- Michael & Kathy Fister
- Tom & Patricia Fitzgerald
- Ted Fraebel
- Jeff Franklin
- Cindy Frazer
- David & Brenda Fulcher
- Terrance & Karen Furlow
- Matthew Gidcomb
- Juanice Gillespie
- Anne Glover
- Patricia & J. Dale Golden

CONTRIBUTORS

- Bert Grayson
- Chris Grecco
- Larry Grossman
- Rosemarie Hackett
- Tom Hackney
- David Hafley
- Michael & Barbara Hagen
- Candy Harker
- Phil & Connie Harmon
- Lonnie Harris
- Melanie Harris
- Phyllis R Hasbrouck
- Frances & Joseph Hays
- Nancy & Darrell Heckman
- Paul & Christine Helsby
- Patricia Henricksen
- Barbara Herbener
- Kathy Holder
- Brian Hunt
- Larry Hurt
- Meat Huston
- Al Isaac
- Jan & Larry Isenhour
- Edmund & Marlene James
- Stuart & Kathy Johnson
- Diane Johnson
- Jacob and Mary Karnes
- Clark & Carey Kebodeaux
- Theresa Kremer
- Sandra Lee
- Dena Lentz
- Patrick Lucas
- Richard Lucas
- Joseph Luckett
- Mary Luken
- Damien Mallen
- Richard L. Marshall Estate
- John McKnight
- Mary McLaren
- Tish & Matt McMahan
- Richard Metzger
- Dick & Shelly Meyer
- Robert & Marcia Miller
- Angie Mimms
- Margo & Jack Minan
- Mel & Madalyn Moser
- Nancy & Jeff Moser
- Denise Murray
- Mike & Pamela Noyes
- Brian O'Neill
- Pat O'Neill
- Sue Overman
- Roger Paige
- Dennis Pearce
- Janet Prewitt
- Ann Mary Quarandillo
- Mary Quertermous
- Andrea Quigley
- Linda Rice
- N.T. Ricker
- Marilyn Robie
- Rick & Carol Roderick
- Patsy & Jerry Rose
- Philip Rose
- Mary Ellen Ross
- Rosemary Sackleh
- Bill Sallee
- Ann Samani
- John Saunders
- Kevin & Elise Scully
- Walker Sloan
- Adrienne & Jim Stevens
- Paul Darryl Stith
- Deborah & Ralph Strano
- Sara & Tommy Sutton
- Kelly & Kathy Taylor
- Julie Thro
- Victoria & Joseph Trupiano
- Tanya J. Tyler
- Jeanne Van Arsdall
- Jewel Vanderhoef
- Frank & Carol Vaughan
- Freida Vinegar
- Blanca & Walter Ward
- Natalie Watt
- Mark Webster
- John & Frances Wilson
- Jack & Angene Wilson

THANK YOU!





RADIO EYE

162 Old Todds Rd Ste 280

Lexington, KY 40509

859-422-6390

www.radioeye.org



**FREE MATTER
FOR THE BLIND**

HOW TO LISTEN TO RADIO EYE

Radio Eye provides special FM side-band radios, internet radios, Amazon Echo, or large-button telephones to qualified individuals at no cost. To receive a listening device, call 859-422-6390 or 800-238-5193 ext. 0, email info@radioeye.org, or visit www.radioeye.org for a listener application.

Streaming

www.radioeye.org

Alexa Skill: "Radio Eye Live"

Victor Reader Stream

Telephone - NFB Newsline

Call 866-5040-7300 to register with NFB

Toll-Free Telephone Broadcast

800-238-5193

ext. 1: Lexington OR 518-906-1527

ext. 2: Louisville OR 518-801-1177

ext. 3: Eastern Kentucky OR 518-906-1841

ext. 4: Western Kentucky OR 518-906-1867

Available on Apple and Android Apps

Our app: Radio Eye KY

Or via: Sero, Tune In, or ooTunes

Special FM Side-Band Radio or Internet Radio

Call 859-422-6390 OR 800-238-5193 ext. 0
to inquire

Podcasts

- Alexa Skill: "Radio Eye Podcast Player"
- Victor Reader Stream via ooTunes
- Spreaker, Apple Podcasts, or wherever you get your podcasts