

THE RADIO READER

Next Steps for Radio Eye

One of the only conversations I ever had with Radio Eye founder Al Crabb was about how Radio Eye had grown far past anything he ever imagined, to the point that he almost didn't understand it anymore. It really makes you take a step back and think about how much we've accomplished as a service and all the obstacles we've overcome. From broadcasting to just Lexington to being a statewide service. From having a mostly volunteer production team to being a full-time staff of three. From only being able to record a few hours a day to having an established 24/7 broadcast of four streams. It's an incredible transformation to see how far his dream has grown. Now that we are settled in our new space and have established our new normal, we are beyond excited for our next chapter.

What does that look like?

For starters, Radio Eye has updated its branding. We've talked about being excited and proud to have invested in a refreshed logo with a specified brand package. With that comes new marketing material and a modernized style to appeal to new audiences. Our listener demographic is changing and we're trying to change with them. We're starting to get in applications...

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Photos: (Top) Radio Eye's information and outreach table at the Blind Youth Entrepreneurship Summit. (Middle) Poet Laureate Kathleen Driskell participated in our Celebrity Reader Week. (Bottom) Radio Eye's new t-shirts featuring the updated logo.



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Next Steps for Radio Eye (cont. from front)

from generations that have grown up with adaptive technology and because of that we need to be able to meet them where they are with their listening needs. That created the push for us to create our own app so there was a more “on-the-go” option for the listener who is active but still wants to stay informed.

Radio Eye will also be taking a more active approach with our community partners and donors. When the pandemic caused us to shut down and go remote, we lost that personal touch that made connections feel so special. In order to do that, we have shifted around staff titles to better suit skillsets and set us up for success as an organization. You will see us attending more community and statewide events. You’ll notice that our social media platforms are more cohesive and up to date. You will see us asking for help from our volunteers in making new civic connections. You will see our board becoming more active and present within our studios. We will change Radio Eye from being a nonprofit that most haven’t heard of to one that is known for its impact in the community.

We’re navigating new territory and with that, inevitably, comes some missteps. We appreciate grace and suggestions as we make our way forward. Because I’ve been with Radio Eye for so long (13 years!) I’ve had to constantly correct myself from saying “Well we used to do...” to questions asked. The truth is, I’m still learning how to honor our accomplishments in the past and to keep them from hindering our future. I’m excited to see plans come to fruition and where this next year takes us!



Executive Director

Looking to give back to your community in a high-impact way? Want to add some service to your professional resume? Or do you know someone interested in our mission?

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 - 4 individuals, particularly a treasurer, lawyers, and those with visual or print impairments. Volunteers will be considered, but we also need folks not already part of the organization in order to help new circles learn about our mission.

RADIO EYE IN THE COMMUNITY

Thoroughbred Classic 2025

In November 2025, Radio Eye once again had the opportunity to volunteer with Bluegrass Runners for the 42nd annual Thoroughbred Runners 5k. Our twentieth year volunteering with the event, Radio Eye sent 14 volunteers for a total of 52 hours, passing out bibs and shirts, directing parking, and cheering on the runners. We bundled up for the chilly weather and ultimately had a great time!



Bluegrass Runners has donated \$75,000 over 20 years to Radio Eye, and we could not be more grateful. That generosity has had a direct impact on the lives of nearly 10,000 Kentuckians and will continue to help us provide services for many more.



Bluegrass Fair Volunteers Needed!



If you're interested in volunteering with us at events like the Thoroughbred Classic or the Lions Club's Bluegrass Fair, please reach out to us at info@radioeye.org

We will need volunteers for the Bluegrass Fair in the afternoons of Saturdays and Sunday, June 6-7 and 13-14.

These are ticket taking positions and can be seated. The Lions are also always looking for Spanish-speaking individuals to volunteer!

Know of an Outreach Opportunity?

As part of our expansion in 2026 (and beyond), we are looking for more ways to reach potential listeners. If you know of any informational fairs we could be attending, places we should be advertising, **or** you're part of an organization that would like someone to come speak on the work and benefits of Radio Eye please contact Outreach and Community Manager Bill Sallee at bill.sallee@radioeye.org



PROGRAM CHANGES

Radio Eye has made several updates to its program schedule based on listener feedback and aiming to make popular and requested programs more convenient and accessible.

What's New:

- Get Fit now airs at 12:30 PM on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, providing a convenient midday time.
- Kentucky Series reduced from 4 days to 2 days per week.
- Country Weekly moved to Fridays at 12 PM.

How to Listen:

The easiest and most reliable way to enjoy Radio Eye is through our **mobile app**. You can listen on any smartphone or tablet with Wi-Fi or wireless data. The app is designed for accessibility, featuring:

- Simple navigation
- Voice command capabilities
- Large, easy-to-use buttons

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

National Volunteer Appreciation Month

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month in the United States, and we are SO grateful for our nearly 100 volunteers that keep Radio Eye on air. Ahead of our larger volunteer appreciation party in October, the Radio Eye staff wanted to celebrate our volunteers with small events where local (and some not so local!) volunteers could drop in, have a snack, pick up their new t-shirt, and catch up with each other.

We hosted a small event each day - donuts and coffee on Monday morning, tea on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, lunch catered by Stella's on Wednesday, and an ice cream social on Friday.



(Above) Our tea spread included Radio Eye branded thermoses, shortbread, macarons, palmiers, and more.

(Leftmost) Volunteers and staff gather for coffee and donuts. (Center) Several volunteers dish up for lunch while others already seated enjoy their sandwiches.



Reaching out to Western Kentucky

One of our western Kentucky listeners, Debbie Wise has been enjoying Radio Eye programming for three years. She lives near Irvington, Kentucky, a small town in Breckinridge County near the Meade County line, on a small farm with her four dogs - Zuca, a German Shepherd; Buddy, a Jack Russell mix; Bella, a Beagle-Heeler mix; and Jasmine, a Pomeranian. They are her immediate family, and if you didn't guess, she has a big soft spot in her heart for animals and animal rescue. One thing she likes best about living in the country is how birds and wildlife venture out of their nearby woodland habitat daily to visit the five of them at her home.

Debbie was originally more of a "city girl," growing up in Louisville and graduating from the Kentucky School for the Blind. She says that she particularly enjoyed music-related classes, fondly remembering making All-State Chorus and Orchestra for piano, flute, and vocals during her senior year. After graduation, she also worked for a time at the Kentucky Council of the Blind for long-time Director Carla Ruschival.

Still a music fan, Debbie loves country, praise & worship, and pop hits from the 70's and 80's. She also enjoys the music and sermons at her church and visiting with her friends there every week. When indoors, Debbie likes to cook and listen to music or Radio Eye on her computer. Her outdoor activities also include gardening, with special attention

to growing flowers, green peppers, and tomatoes.

Debbie has had severe cataracts since her youth, which greatly limits her vision. She is appreciative of the readings she can access from Radio Eye almost every day, telling us, "I get so much information!" She is especially fond of our daily readings of the Louisville Courier Journal and also enjoys regional

newspapers from the towns where some of her friends reside, all available via convenient podcast. She also enjoys listening to books from the Kentucky Talking Library, which is how she first learned about Radio Eye a few years ago. Thank you, Debbie, for giving us all a little taste of life in the country, and for being a loyal listener of Radio Eye!



GIVING OPPORTUNITY

Kentucky Gives 2026 is Coming!

Kentucky Gives Day is a statewide, 24-hour online giving event that brings communities together to support local nonprofits — and Radio Eye is proud to be part of it. This special day is all about generosity, connection, and making a meaningful impact across the Commonwealth.

Our goal this year is **\$7,000** raised to help continue our mission of providing accessible news, books, and information to individuals who are blind or visually impaired. Every gift, no matter the size, helps keep our readers on the air and our services freely available to those who rely on them. There are also prizes and matches available throughout the day.

How to Give:

Donations will be open from May 1 - 13, but only donations made on **May 12** through our Kentucky Gives Day page qualify for matches and prizes. The direct link will be available on our social media and sent out via email.



See www.kygives.org for more details!

INTERN FEATURE

Creating with Caroline

Caroline Conaty is a senior at the University of Kentucky, where she is earning her BA in Integrated Strategic Communication. Caroline interned with Radio Eye this spring, bringing



her creativity and knowledge of design and social media to support and enhance Radio Eye's online presence. Throughout her internship, Caroline helped manage our digital platforms and create engaging content that helps share Radio Eye's mission with a broader audience.

Outside of work, Caroline enjoys attending UK sports games, spending time with friends, and traveling (pictured right in Ireland, her favorite place). As she approaches graduation, Caroline looks forward to beginning the next chapter of her career in digital media and strategic communication in her hometown of St. Louis, Missouri, where she hopes to continue combining creativity with purpose in her professional journey.

In His Element - Chris Grecco

Volunteering isn't an afterthought for Chris Grecco, it's a core tenet of his personal and professional mission. He is a father, a husband, a business owner, a coach, and a volunteer. Born and raised in New Jersey, Chris found his way to Kentucky through Western Kentucky University, from which he graduated with degrees in broadcasting and sociology. He uses that background as co-owner of Element Market Research Inc, a successful firm based here in Lexington, and as a Radio Eye volunteer.

Philanthropy and volunteering are critical to Element's mission as well as to Chris personally. He and his business partner dedicate time every week to giving back to the community during the work day, making sure it's "not something we added in at the end," but rather, "an obvious, ardent part" of what they do. It was through volunteering with the Bluegrass Runners, a long time Radio Eye supporter, at their Thoroughbred Classic race that inspired Chris to share his time with Radio Eye starting in spring 2023.

Chris now reads two programs each week for Radio Eye from the comfort of his own

home - or on the road while traveling. Recording from home means that on Tuesdays, he says, he reads the New York Times while enjoying his first cup of coffee. Later in the week, he has the freedom to record Men's World at any time of day. He does miss

recording in the studio regularly as he did before we moved, he says, because he knows his audio quality is consistent at the studio and he misses the opportunity to socialize with the Radio Eye community.

Thankfully, our spring Volunteer Appreciation Week gave Chris an opportunity to visit the studio and catch up with staff and other volunteers. We're

always keen to ask Chris about his work coaching at Bryan Station High school and internationally with Soccer Without Borders. Luckily, he's a good sport about it!

People like Chris are a crucial force behind Radio Eye - his time and dedication ensure that news can be accessed by those who might not otherwise have that connection to their communities. Thank you to Chris and all our volunteers for helping bring us together.





RADIO EYE

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www.radioeye.org

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

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ext. 1: Lexington OR 518-906-1527

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