



# RADIO EYE

Kentucky's **EYE** on the written world

## RADIO READER

### Nearly Two Decades of Service

What do former Beatle John Lennon, former Governors Ned Breathitt and Paul Patton, and former local television Sports Anchor Rob Bromley all have in common? Well, for one, they all have met Radio Eye's Radio Engineer Doug Collins, and he could tell you entertaining stories about each of them. Had those stories ever been published, we would insist he go into a recording booth so they could be shared with our listeners.

It makes sense that Doug would have many stories worth sharing, following his 40-year career as an audio engineer for CBS, NBC, PBS, CNN, ESPN and KET. Doug grew up near Bourbon and Nicholas Counties northeast of Lexington and began his career at WBGR-AM in Paris, Kentucky in 1978. When he began volunteering with Radio Eye almost 20 years ago, he had just retired from a 27-year stint with Kentucky Education Television in Lexington.



Truthfully, Doug has spent more time in a recording studio or with recording equipment than any staff or volunteer member, even though our listeners have never heard his voice. *(Continued on p. 6)*

# Lucy Stone, Executive Director

This is one article I never thought I'd have the opportunity to write. My name is Lucy Stone and I'm very proud to announce that I am, as of last December, the new Executive Director of Radio Eye. Most of our volunteers are aware of the change in leadership, but we wanted to make all of our supporters and partners aware as well. I had the pleasure of learning and growing under Amy Hatter for almost 10 years before she stepped down as our Executive Director in Fall 2022 after almost 13 years with us. That knowledge allowed me to help navigate the rocky waters Radio Eye faced over the last year or so. We weathered the storm and I'm happy to have our wonderful organization back on track. This next year we are facing even more growth and with that comes changes. We are so excited to have such a great group of supporters, volunteers, and listeners to accompany us on this journey.

Along with a new Executive Director, the team at Radio Eye includes a new face as our Office Manager and two new faces sharing the title of Board Chair. You'll read about both those things later on in this newsletter. You'll also notice a change in our broadcast streams. As technology changes, we must change with it in order to best serve our listeners. What won't change is our determination and dedication to serving our community and listeners. I can't express enough the appreciation I have for the Radio Eye family and their support while we've experienced these challenges. I'm proud that our service continued without fault and that we continue to add more volunteers to our forces. We truly couldn't do this without the support of those taking time to read these words. Stay tuned for what's next here at Radio Eye!

## David Hafley's Transition and Continued Commitment



It is with mixed emotions that we announce the transition of David Hafley, our esteemed long-term Board Chair, from his position on the Radio Eye board. David has been a stalwart presence within Radio Eye, guiding our organization with wisdom and dedication. However, alongside his duties as Radio Eye's Board Chair, David has been actively involved as a crisis counselor on the new 988 Suicide/Crisis Lifeline. This critical work holds profound importance for him, demanding his full attention and commitment. While stepping down from his role on the board, David remains steadfast in his dedication to our mission by continuing his weekly reading of the Herald-Leader, ensuring that our visually impaired listeners have access to vital news and information.

# Familiar Faces and New

## **Lucy Stone Appointed Executive Director**

It is with great pleasure and confidence that we officially announce Lucy Stone's appointment as the new Executive Director of Radio Eye. Lucy has been an integral part of our organization for an many years, serving diligently as the Program Director. Her unwavering commitment to our mission, coupled with her exemplary leadership skills and love for the organization, makes her the ideal candidate to lead Radio Eye into its next chapter of growth and impact. Her deep understanding of our listeners and volunteers will be invaluable as we seek to expand our reach and impact. We are excited about the fresh perspectives and innovative approaches that Lucy will bring to her new role.

## **Bill Sallee Appointed Program Director**

We are thrilled to announce the promotion of Bill Sallee to the position of Program Director at Radio Eye. Bill has been an integral part of the Radio Eye team for several years, serving with dedication and distinction in his role as Office Manager. His commitment to our mission and his passion for radio broadcasting have been evident in his work, and we are confident that he will excel in his new role as Program Director. Bill will oversee all aspects of program development and production, ensuring that Radio Eye continues to provide high-quality programming that informs, educates, and entertains listeners.

## **Greta Biedermann New Office Manager**

On behalf of the Radio Eye team, we extend a warm welcome to Greta Biedermann, our newest staff member. Greta joins us as the full-time Office Manager, commencing her role

on Thursday, March 7th. With enthusiasm and professionalism, Greta will be responsible for a range of tasks including greeting visitors, managing emails, and familiarizing herself with the intricate operations that keep Radio Eye on the airwaves. As Greta acclimates to her position, she will gradually assume more responsibilities related to volunteer coordination and scheduling. We encourage everyone to reach out to Greta with any queries or suggestions at [greta.biedermann@radioeye.org](mailto:greta.biedermann@radioeye.org) or via [info@radioeye.org](mailto:info@radioeye.org).

## **Louisville Update**

Radio Eye's Board of Directors remains committed to serving and growing our presence in the Louisville area in a responsible manner. We appreciate our volunteers, board members, committees, and leaders from Louisville. The decision to not fill the Volunteer Coordinator position in Louisville was difficult but necessary at this time. We will have more updates soon on plans to revitalize the committees and build volunteer structures in the metro area.

## **Seeking a Lawyer to Join the Board**

Radio Eye is actively seeking a seasoned lawyer to join our esteemed Board of Directors. The expertise of legal professionals is indispensable as we navigate complex legal matters and ensure compliance with regulations. If you or someone you know possesses a passion for our mission and a background in law, we invite you to explore this opportunity to contribute meaningfully to Radio Eye's mission of serving the visually impaired community.

## PROGRAM CHANGES

# Four Regional Livestreams

All 2024 program changes will be effective starting on Monday, April 29. Most notable this year is the condensation of our Eastern Kentucky and Morehead streams. This will only affect the three times per day that the streams split to broadcast regional newspapers, and was a decision partially precipitated by the closure or absorption of several Morehead-regional papers. Technologically, Morehead listeners will still tune their radios to the same station but will receive Eastern Kentucky programming. Alexa/Echo, online, and toll-free phone broadcast listeners will choose the Lexington or Eastern Kentucky streams for local news.

Additionally, some of our program names will be changing slightly as we standardize our naming conventions. If not already in the newspaper title, the city from which the paper is published will be added to the program name to reduce confusion. For example, the Kentucky Standard will be called the Bardstown Kentucky Standard. If more than one paper is read, the program name will be the counties from which those newspapers are published.

*As a result of combining the Eastern Kentucky and Morehead streams, our readings of the Maysville Ledger Independent and Licking Valley Courier will be moved to podcast only. We will be discontinuing our readings of the Lewis Co. Herald and London Sentinel-Echo.*

*The new Eastern Kentucky schedule for 10:30-11:00am Monday - Saturday and 12:00-12:30pm on Sunday is:*

*Monday: Pike Co. News  
Tuesday: Corbin Times-Tribune  
Weds: Ashland Daily Independent  
Thursday: Mountain Eagle  
Friday: Manchester Enterprise  
Saturday: Breathitt Advocate  
Sunday: Hazard Herald*

## GIFT LETTER MISSING?

Dear Radio Eye supporters,

We have received a few calls stating some end of year gift letters were not received. We seem to have had an issue with our mail delivery. If you did not receive your letter and need it, please reach out to Lucy ([lucy.stone@radioeye.org](mailto:lucy.stone@radioeye.org)) as soon as possible. She will be happy to email you a copy, as well as mail out an additional print version.

Thank you for understanding!



## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

# In the Competition

This March, Radio Eye submitted four volunteer-read programs to the annual International Association of Audio Information Services (IAAIS) Program Awards competition. IAAIS runs the competition not only to promote the production of quality programming, but also to create a forum for sharing ideas and learning about what other stations are doing. Program submissions are judged based on their narrative “packaging,” the reader’s delivery of the material, and the audio’s technical quality.

The winners for all eight categories will be announced at the IAAIS Annual Conference in July.

Radio Eye submitted the following programs for consideration:

**Newspapers:**

*New York Times* read by Scott Johnson

**Magazines:**

*Country Weekly* read by Ken Dawkins

**Consumer Information:**

Grocery Show read by Peggy Hayes

**Book Program:**

*Revolutionary Samuel Adams* by Stacy Schiff read by Chauncey Kurtz



## OUTREACH

# Help Us Spread the Word!



Are you interested in volunteering for Radio Eye but you’re not sure about committing to weekly readings? Would you be open to volunteering a day or so every few months? Consider joining the Outreach Committee!

Before the pandemic, we had active committees in both Lexington and Louisville that attended several health fairs, speaking engagements, and social events every month to talk about the services Radio Eye provides. We are looking at reinvigorating those committees this year and have already started booking tables at health fairs in the upcoming months.

If you’re interested in helping out or would like more information – please don’t hesitate to reach out via phone or email. We’d love to have you!

## CON'T FROM FRONT PAGE

### Nearly Two Decades of Service (from p. 1)

Unassuming and always willing to give others credit, Doug has long been vital to Radio Eye's longevity and success.

Doug began working for Radio Eye in 2006, before our studios were moved from the Margaret I. King Library on the campus of the University of Kentucky. In Spring 2008, Doug took charge of installing all of the new broadcast equipment in our Northside Library studio. In the studio every day for weeks, it was because of Doug that the broadcast transitioned seamlessly and without any interruption in the broadcast. His history of service was recognized in 2022 when Doug was inducted into the inaugural class of the Radio Eye Hall of Fame.

Since then, he has made it one of his avocations to ensure all of our equipment works to keep us "on the air" 24/7/365, from the equipment in the Northside Library that takes in all recordings from our volunteer readers to the antennae on radio towers across Kentucky that broadcast our programming. When the equipment malfunctions, Radio Eye staff know we can contact Doug to ask for his expertise in diagnosing the problem. Sight unseen, he can theorize potential problems and assess the seriousness of the issue. He often makes the hour-long drive to the north side of Lexington to reset the broadcast equipment and help us get back on the air.

When not diagnosing our broadcasting issues, Doug and his partner spend time on their rural Garrard County farm, where they enjoy the peace and quiet of the country with their cats and other animal rescues.

- by Bill Sallee

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Tuesday, July 16

#### RADIO EYE AT LEXINGTON LEGENDS

Join us for a game at the ballpark as the Lexington Legends face off against the Charleston Dirty Birds! Radio Eye has reserved a suite for volunteers on the evening of July 16th.



### Tuesday, October 1

#### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENING

Save the date for our 2024 Volunteer Appreciation event in Lexington! Mingle with staff, board members, and fellow volunteers while enjoying drinks and hearty hors d'oeuvres. Location TBA.

# Giving Back in Retirement

Modern media often tells us to “make the most of your retirement,” and Radio Eye volunteer Linda Edwards has taken such suggestions to heart. A lifelong Louisville resident, Linda is enjoying her retirement following a 50-year career in the hotel and hospitality industry, including a long stint in charge of the Convention Center in downtown Louisville.

She has now moved on to the other part of her life, which is giving back. “There is a lot of comfort and pleasure to ‘give back,’” she said, especially to the workers in the Derby City’s signature industry that she knows so well. It “makes you feel good, to have an impact.” Linda’s volunteering was publicly recognized and rewarded twice last year - first as a “Volunteer of the Month” by Radio Eye, and later as the “2023 Volunteer of the Year” by St. Matthews Ministries, a 501(c)3 nonprofit that seeks to unite Louisville congregations’ people and resources in an attempt to meet the unmet needs of its citizens.

Through St. Matthews, Linda visits the homebound monthly and is involved with the Ministry’s food pantry, networking with area Starbucks and Little Caesar’s restaurants to obtain food donations for the ministry. “People need food and water and companionship,” she said, “Their eyes light up when you deliver something they like.” She also knows where to obtain disposable diapers (for example, almost 300,000 in 2022) for new parents, to provide just the type of things they would like and need.

You can imagine what her monthly home visits might be like by listening to her weekly readings on Radio Eye over the past three years. She has a sophisticated but almost-folksy demeanor when she reads for the Kentucky Series from the comfort of her home, as a remote reader. She usually reads from “Hobby Farms,” “Hamburg Journal,” or “The Blood-Horse” magazine. It is not at all unusual to hear about horses, chickens, gardening or even donkeys, and the readings are very entertaining. “It’s an educational thing for me,” she says, in partial explanation as to why she donates her time to read for Radio Eye. Linda initially found Radio Eye as a way to give back to her uncle, who experienced diminished eyesight after surviving a car wreck.

The Kentucky Series allows Linda to infuse her life and upbringing into her Radio Eye readings. Living in Louisville, she can easily relate to the suburban focus of the Hamburg Journal, but she also has close ties to her readings from “Hobby Farms” and “The Blood-Horse.”

(Continued on p. 8)



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Linda can authentically communicate the issues in those two publications to readers because, in her youth, she was often a “farm girl” on the weekends. Every Friday evening until she turned “sweet 16,” she can remember her father driving her and her entire family to visit their relatives in Gallatin, Tennessee, who lived on a farm outside that rural town. With her siblings and parents, Linda “helped in dairy farm work on Saturday and Sunday ... making fond memories” together. After Sunday dinner, the family loaded up, and her dad drove north to get the family back to Louisville in time for work and school on Monday morning. Growing up, she was at the same time a “city girl” and a “country girl,” so it seems. Just like with her Kentucky Series readings, she knows the life of both.

Despite being busy volunteering, Linda makes time for other pursuits in her retirement. Linda is an avid golfer and enjoys traveling. Last year, she went snowmobiling and dog-sledding in the Yukon region of Canada in addition to making a bucket-list trip to the Swiss Alps. Until her next trip, keep an ear open for her friendly readings for the Kentucky Series every week or so on Radio Eye.

- by Bill Sallee

## Family Volunteering Together

If Radio Eye ever offered a Comedy Hour program, the staff’s first choice to read it would have to be the twin sisters Jennifer Goodwin and Jackie Justice alongside Jackie’s 18-year old daughter, Kennedy. Since the trio first arrived at Radio Eye for their Volunteer Orientation session last summer, they have been a source of laughter and light-hearted banter with staff and volunteers alike. The three travel together to the studios each Friday morning and hit the door running.

“Hotel California...that’s what Radio Eye is to us,” says Jackie, deliberately referencing the Eagles’ mega-hit song from the 1980s. “There are no clocks and windows (in the recording studios), just like Hotel California,” Jackie said. “I feel that in the studios, time is frozen ... in a good way. I feel the same way about literature and good stories. It’s timeless.” She added that the Eagles’ song “was their love/hate ode to L.A. But I’m going to take out the hate...as I only have love for Radio Eye.” Jackie, Jennifer, and Kennedy agree that visiting Radio Eye each week is so enjoyable, and they have so much fun here, that they often find it difficult to leave.

“We are from Biloxi, Mississippi,” explained Jennifer, “but everyone thinks we are from Neew Jeeerseeey!” Jackie and her husband moved to Lexington in 2003, followed soon after by Jennifer and the Goodwin family. The two families live in the same subdivision, just a block away from each other. The twins even call each other “Rattie!” “We’re more like the [rats on the] Muppet Show,” Jennifer quipped. “No, we are drop-dead gorgeous!” Jackie instantly retorted. While our twins are nearly identical and sound extremely similar, like Gonzo and Rizzo they provide a wonderful mixture of intelligent debate, thoughtful insights, and side-splitting banter. “We talk a lot,” Jackie explained, and the staff has often observed the twins finishing each other’s sentences.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Kennedy was actually the one to discover Radio Eye. She is considering joining the Daughters of St. Paul, an order of Catholic nuns that openly utilize and promote social media use, communicating to Christians following the epistolary example of St. Paul two centuries ago. "They've got a TikTok presence," Jackie said, adding that the order has learned the modern way to reach people. Encouraged by the order's social media outreach, Kennedy found the Radio Eye website while searching for local opportunities to gain on-air and podcast experience during her last year of high school. She shared her research with her mom, who appreciated our mission and was interested in finding a local service opportunity. So, they submitted online Volunteer Applications, and later while on vacation, Kennedy told Aunt Jennifer about her findings.

When Jennifer learned that they were considering volunteering, she saw they had to text with "this man named Bill, who was 'ghosting'" them. Not wanting to be left out, she tagged along to their Orientation session. After meeting the staff, downing a cold Zevia soda, and learning more about Radio Eye, she also filled out a Volunteer Application. Since passing their background checks, the three have never traveled to the studios alone.

Jackie works at Cassidy Elementary School in Lexington, and like Kennedy, has Fridays off. Jennifer has written and published screenplays, and has a Canadian agent managing her written works. Jackie is a co-author and collaborator, and their wit, creativity, and mastery of language has no doubt led to their joint success as a screenwriting team.

The three have read short stories, mysteries, magazines, and books for Radio Eye. They have also enjoyed live-reading the Herald-Leader, and might do so again in the future. These ladies usually fill three of our four studios simultaneously when they arrive to record their programs, making their gregarious presence known in very short order, to the delight of our in-studio volunteers and staff.

- by Bill Sallee



*Jackie, Kennedy, and Jennifer were thrilled by their purchase of Radio Eye fleeces last fall and excited to model them for this newsletter! Fleeces are available in a variety of sizes and cost \$31.80. T-shirts and long sleeved shirts are also available.*

# A New Face for Volunteers

Lucy and Bill later told me that they were nervous following our initial interview, worried that the number of “interruptions” - doorbell dinging, phone ringing, volunteers passing through the bullpen - would disconcert me as I answered their questions. “What is your experience with public speaking?” I remember Bill asking, laughing as he knew I had come from a career where I spoke in front of people every day. Instead, it made me feel right at home. I was charmed by the Friday afternoon volunteers, curiously listening to their life updates and engaging with one or two over their reading material.

A month into working in the Lexington studio, that feeling of comfort and familiarity has only grown. I’m starting to remember names and build rapport with our regulars, and Bill and Lucy have probably heard too many stories from my days in teaching and academia. I come to Radio Eye with a M.A. in Russian Literature from Indiana University Bloomington and several years of experience teaching high school English Language Arts in Columbus, Indiana, including leading the yearbook and newspaper program at our small school. Although I recently stepped back from teaching, I’m delighted to be continuing work that enables broader access to the written word and helps people of all backgrounds to stay connected to their communities.



When asked why I moved to Lexington, my ultimate answer is always about the community. I’ve known people in the Lexington arts scene for a decade and was lucky to reconnect with them online during the COVID-19 lock-down. When shows were being booked again, I started coming down to visit, making new friends, finding a place for myself within the community, and promptly falling in love with Minton’s savory french toast - at which point the deal was sealed. Radio Eye’s community is one that I didn’t expect to find, but for whom I am already immensely grateful.

Outside of work, I can be found most often cooking and crafting. I’m a fiber hobbyist, dabbling in spinning yarn, knitting, and hand sewing. My favorite projects are those I can track from sheep to foraged dye materials to finished product. I also have three cats (Kolya, Toby, and Tux), two of whom are former colony cats, and I occasionally volunteer with local Trap-Neuter-Release programs like Spay our Strays to help reduce feral cat populations. As the weather warms up, I’m looking forward to hiking and finding local spots for mushroom and berry foraging.

- by Greta Biedermann

## INTERN SPOTLIGHT

# Serving with a Smile

Gina Downing currently serves as Radio Eye’s administrative assistant, working on data entry, mailings, and phone campaigns in the Lexington studio. Gina found Radio Eye through the Senior Community Service Employment Program two years ago, a program that helps senior citizens find meaningful, accessible work.

Since then, Gina has been a fixture in the studio, and many of her fondest memories here are of laughing with Bill, Lucy, and the volunteer readers in the bullpen. Although not a Lexington native, Gina has lived in the region for sixteen years, and two of her three children also live in the Bluegrass. She loves cooking for others and putting smiles on the faces of the people around her.



## INTERN SPOTLIGHT

# Student in the Studio

Dylan Nusz, a senior at Transylvania University in Lexington, has been an invaluable member of the Radio Eye team during the Spring 2024 semester, serving as a production intern while he completes his B.A. in Digital Arts and Media. While he primarily works behind the scenes - preparing audio files to air, removing unneeded files, and troubleshooting technical difficulties - listeners will also recognize Dylan’s voice filling in for Sports News and the Louisville Courier Journal.



“The atmosphere and culture that this place has is very positive,” Dylan said of the Lexington studio. One of his favorite things about working at Radio Eye has been “seeing the people ... that take time out of their days” to volunteer.

Radio Eye would like to thank Dylan for his hard work with us and wish him the best for both his final semester at Transy and after graduation.



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## How to Listen to Radio Eye

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