



## Audio Journal: Have you *Heard* the News?

Do you remember what you saw on the front page of today's newspaper? Nearly 5,000 residents of Worcester County never had the opportunity. That's because they are blind or visually impaired. How do they get information about what is happening in their own backyards, the area, the state, the nation and the world? Enter Audio Journal, a non-profit agency located in Worcester, MA, known as a radio-reading service. Audio Journal is a radio station unlike any other in the area. Fueled by the efforts of a small staff and over 150 volunteers, daily programming is broadcast 24/7 to an appreciative yet vulnerable and underserved segment of our communities. Those who are blind, or face other difficulties such as quadra or paraplegia, stroke, cognitive issues, dexterity problems, or just the natural infirmities of aging, can find it impossible to access printed or visual materials. Audio Journal works hard to ensure that no one who wants to be informed is left behind. Founded in 1987 as a natural outgrowth of flagship station The Talking Information Center in Marshfield, MA, Audio Journal became one of six affiliates that collectively are known as the Massachusetts Reading Network. Other affiliates are located on Cape Cod, in Framingham, Lowell, Springfield and Dalton. These stations combine to serve over 20,000 legally blind residents of the Commonwealth, with several thousand others who cannot access printed materials. On the surface Audio Journal simply reads for those who cannot read for themselves, keeping them informed, educated and entertained. But as importantly, the service helps prevent isolation and subsequent depression that can affect people with disabilities. It lets them know they are part of a community, that they are not alone, and that there are people who care and are willing to work hard to prove it. And, thanks to fully accessible studios, people with disabilities can now be a part of the solution by volunteering themselves. Programming is varied and covers a wide spectrum, everything from local obituaries to politics, sports to business, local to world news. Audio Journal listeners can hear nearly 30 different local newspapers read each week. National publications are also broadcast. Programs in addition to the newspaper readings can be of general interest such as history, science, travel, culture and health, or specific topics on elder, blindness, or other related disability issues. There are interviews, call-ins, on location, and even a live radio theatre troupe. The Audio Journal has been recognized for its attempt to reach the highest standards of broadcast excellence. The agency has received nine "Program of the Year" awards in the last eight years from the *International Association of Audio Information Services*. Audio Journal is widening its mission to further improve the lives of those it serves. In an agreement with the MA Commission for the Blind, the reading service is now approved as a Community Based Employment Service. Blind individuals between the ages of 18-35 can qualify to attend a 13-week training course

*Audio Journal Continued ...*

can qualify to attend a 13-week training course that will expose them to a variety of functions at the station, from administrative tasks to programming and audio editing. This effort is designed to affect the 70% unemployment rate of able blind individuals. To this purpose Audio Journal is embarking on a major fund-raising initiative to expand its physical space. This growth will include workspaces equipped for blind individuals to learn and use adaptive technology, training rooms, and a training production and broadcast studio. In its 20th year of service, Audio Journal is mindful of its success and thankful for all the people who made it happen. It is poised to grow into the future, keeping pace with technology and ever striving to provide a meaningful and effective service to a challenged but potentially vibrant and productive segment of our community. For more information on Audio Journal contact Vince Lombardi at 508-797-1117, 799 West Boylston Street, Worcester, MA 01606 or [vince@audiojournal.net](mailto:vince@audiojournal.net).



### *Millbury Lions Club, Inc.*

**Meat Raffle**

**Saturdays**

**October 13th Thru March 22nd**

**2-5 PM**

**St. Charles Hotel**

*Come Join Us!*

### **Ashburnham Lions Club**

*Wishes*

*DG Richard*

*VDG Don*

*CST Mark*

**The Best In All You Do**



### *Dudley Lions Club*

*Enthusiastically supports*

DG Richard

VDG Don Bourque

CST Mark Desmarais



**Contact a Dudley Lion to purchase your Red Sox Baseball raffle tickets. A chance to win 2 box-seats for home games on Sundays & Holidays. Valued at \$2,500. Tickets are 4 for \$3.00**

## District 33-A Lions.

As traditionally occurs, most clubs resumed meetings thru September after a revitalizing summer break and CST Mark Desmarais and I began to make visits to your clubs. We are happy to report we were met at our first six visitations with great enthusiasm for the upcoming year. This time of the year that has also been an excellent time for Lions to invite others as members of their clubs and we were pleasantly pleased to have the opportunity to induct 7 new Lions during our initial visits! Lions, particularly in North America, have recognized that the beginning of their Lionistic year is now! Most have returned from vacations and this becomes their clubs natural time of membership growth. LCI, in an effort to recognize club growth, has named **October as Membership Growth Month**. The top three clubs in each district having a net membership growth of 3 or more Lions will be recognized with banner patches. Club reporting will determine the top 3 clubs in each district. I only have one standing request of each and every Lion in District 33-A. **Have Fun!** Whatever you do in public will draw the attention of others who are "Potentially members" particularly when you incorporate fun into your event, fundraiser or meeting. Attraction to your club largely depends on the public face it presents to the community, and such, is a vital part of the Program to "re-brand" Lions Clubs Internationally. The LCI website [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) contains new and innovative ideas as well as tried-and-true- methods for bringing quality individuals in your community into your club. View the site for Best Practices for Inviting New Members. Our International President Mehendra Amarasuriya has "Challenged Lions to Change". President Mehendra was not looking for clubs to make changes for the sake of change, but rather for clubs to take a look at ways to better work together and incorporate the ideas of all club members to recognize everyone's importance. Some areas to look at are changing the meeting format to incorporate all necessary items, but in an efficient way to take care of business without wasting the time of members. Ensuring your club is engaged in the many aspects of your communities to best service those in need.

Seeking out new ideas specifically to make your club more interesting to your members and prospective new members. Change is not easy, but even the most successful clubs have to anticipate the future and subtle changes. We don't need to change who Lions are or what we do. We need to change how we do things. A thorough and sincere reevaluation of your club's projects will go a long way to ensuring the vitality of your club for years to come. In the spirit and dedication to the International theme "Challenge to Change" many new and innovative ideas have been incorporated into the district. I cannot say enough about your District 33-A Cabinet and Committees for the great ideas and commitment they have dedicated to you! I look forward to an upcoming visit with your club, please utilize our district email and website to notify Lions throughout our district about an upcoming event! Any Lion who wants to receive district email or any club that has a fundraiser, event or notification, please send an email to RC Dr Carole Duquette at [kikibobo@charter.net](mailto:kikibobo@charter.net). All district events are listed on the District Website [www.lions-33a.org](http://www.lions-33a.org). Additional items can be sent to webmaster. Lion Dan Bonnette on our site with just one click! There is much to do, and much to see. I wish all Lions the greatest success in the future!

Yours in Friendship and Lionism,  
Lion Richard Braks, District Governor



New England Eye Center  
Affiliated with Tufts University  
School of Medicine

### An International Referral Center For Ophthalmology

750 Washington Street, Boston MA

800-231-3316

### BT Copy & Printing Center For All Your Printing Needs.....

Booklets & Programs ♦ Raffle & Event Tickets  
Business Cards & Stationary ♦ Flyers & Posters ♦ Calendars

Call PDG Helene & Lion Bob  
for a quote today!

508-248-3377 email: [btcopy@aol.com](mailto:btcopy@aol.com)

District 33-A Lions  
PCST Karen Lachance  
167 Arlington Street  
Athol, MA 01331



F.A. Moschetti & Son Inc.

978-939-8645

Septic Systems Service-Building Development  
Gas & Oil Tank Removal-Building Demolition

Industrial ♦ Commercial  
Residential

