

Volunteer NewsNote * June 2009

Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service
P.O. Box 575, Buffalo, New York 14225
Broadcast Studios at 1199 Harlem Road
(716) 821-5555 * www.nfradioreading.com

BIG NEWS: This year, "NFRRS Summer Break" is a Biggie: July 6—September 7!

Because of severe financial hardship, the **Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service** has decided to take a new "**Summer Break**" from Monday, July 6 through Monday, September 7. **During that nine-week period**, while 24-hour-per-day **Radio Reading** will continue for our blind and print-handicapped listeners, **volunteer recording will only take place 8am-1:30pm on weekdays and 8am-Noon on weekends.**

***** From July 6 until September 7, there will be no volunteer recordings of readings after 1:30pm on weekdays and Noon on weekends. In addition, there will be no "live" reading of the Buffalo News at 4pm from July 6 through September 7. Regular afternoon and evening Radio Reading recordings—and the "live" 4pm Buffalo News reading—will resume on Tuesday, September 8. *****

Unlike the **NFRRS Summer Break** during the past two decades, where recordings were completely stopped for up to two weeks, **this year's "Summer Break" will continue morning and early afternoon weekday recordings throughout the summer.**

We apologize for any inconvenience to our volunteer readers, but the economic financial disaster has hit not-for-profit agencies—and the **Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service**—very hard. Frankly, many of our funding sources have dried up. One leading foundation informed us last week that it had cancelled two of its quarterly meetings already this year, where its would normally distribute grants. One foundation said, "don't even bother applying for funding this year." Under the most difficult circumstances we have ever faced, we are doing everything we can to continue **Radio Reading** for our listeners. While we spend every effort to raise needed funds, we must reduce expenses. This "**Summer Break**" will enable us to continue programming, while eliminating air-conditioning costs during the hottest parts of each day, and saving other costs as well.

***** During the July 6-September 7 period, the "live" 9am-11am Buffalo News and Noon-2pm USA Today readings will continue. The 4pm-6pm Buffalo News "live" reading will not be aired July 6-September 7. It will resume on September 8.**

***** During the July 6-September 7 period, we invite volunteers who normally record readings during the afternoon and evening to sign up for available studio time in mornings or early afternoon. We know that we will not be able to accommodate everyone every week, but we will do our best.**

***** To help the situation, we are asking that recording readers only sign up for no more than one shift per week during Summer Break. We will talk to all recording readers individually about the need to take temporary drastic action; please understand that we are sincerely trying to make the best of a truly difficult situation.**

***** We recognize that some volunteers can only come in on afternoons or evenings—we regret the lack of such recording hours in July & August, and look forward to seeing you and all our treasured volunteer readers come September.**

***** Those readers who normally do the "live" weekday 4-6pm Buffalo News readings are invited to join us again at 4pm in September, and perhaps consider filling-in on the other "live" time slots.**

As for our listeners, our 9am-4pm programming will be rebroadcast 4pm-11pm during Summer Break, with special programs to be aired 11pm-9am.

We at the **NFRRS** know that this is a radical change. We respectfully ask for your understanding and continued support during the Summer, and we hope that we can count on you as volunteers and valued members of the **NFRRS** family in the days to come. Thank you for caring, and I look forward to talking with each of you in the near future.

Robert Sikorski, President, Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service

* Individuals, companies, foundations and groups can send much-needed donations to: **Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service**, P.O. Box 575, Buffalo, New York 14225.

Happy Birthday to **NFRRS** Volunteers celebrating their birthday in June:

- * Marie Bandroch of Cheektowaga
- * John Connors of Buffalo
- * Walter Dannhauser of Wlmsville.
- * Janet DeForest of Hamburg
- * Donna Dickey of Buffalo
- * Kathie DiGiore of Lancaster
- * Pat Edwards of Orchard Park
- * David Hall of East Amherst
- * Marilyn Johnson of Grand Island
- * John Kociela of Amherst
- * Ann Marie Malachowski of Wlms.
- * Carol Mueller of Cheektowaga
- * Jim Nowak of Cheektowaga
- * Peg Ortman of West Seneca
- * Ann Perez of Lackawanna
- * William Poole of Tonawanda
- * David Roll of West Seneca
- * Harry Ray of Amherst
- * Louise Seereiter of Amherst
- * Billie Jo Storfer of Williamsville
- * Lucy Warde of Williamsville

The 5/29-30 NFRRS "Book & Media Super-Sale" was a big success, and we thank: All our many donors, Coordinators Margaret Riso & Margaret Recktenwald, and volunteers including Kitty Carroll, John Cieslewicz, Rosemary & Walter Dannhauser, Donna Dickey, Ann Marie Ford, Terry Gress, Luci Grieco, Cheryl Haake, Barbara Hooven, Dave Jenkins, Nancy Kick, John Kociela, Ron LaBrake, Mark Majewicz, Charles & Sandra McHugh, Peg Mergenhagen, Carol Mueller, Joyce Murphy, Kathleen Murphy, Razia Pathan, Patrick Railey, Martha Reddout, Mary Roberts, Don Sabato, Georgia Salvamoser, Louise Seereiter, Andy & Paul Szeliga, Peter Thielman, Phil & Richard Trzyzewski, Mary Wahl and Tom Warzel (If we've missed anyone, sorry, and big thanks to you, too!).

This summer, the **NFRRS** holds its 14th annual "**Radio Reading Makes Cents**" Coin Drive.

Official "**Radio Reading Makes Cents**" coin collection bottles will be available at the Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service, 1199 Harlem Road, Cheektowaga. However, coins are most welcome in any container!

People can drop off coins for the "**Radio Reading Makes Cents**" Coin Drive anytime at **NFRRS**. We can pick up large quantities of coins on request.

Your coins do add up. Our "**Cents**" drives have raised more than \$10,000. Thanks for your "cold cash"-- it makes cents—and, boy, do we need it now!