



## 1) Holiday Closures

- **The WVLS Office** will be closed on the following: Tuesday, December 24, Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 1, 2025.
- **Delivery/courier service** will not be running on the following: Tuesday, December 24, Wednesday, December 25 and Wednesday, January 1, 2025.
  - If a library is scheduled to receive delivery on a day that Waltco is not running, a make-up stop will not be scheduled.
  - Likewise, if a library is closed on a delivery day, a make-up stop will not be scheduled.
  - Sorting will be affected because of the WVLS office and library closures. Libraries might notice fewer items delivered later next week.
  - Contact [courier@wvls](mailto:courier@wvls) with questions.
- **Monday Mentions** will not be posted the week of Monday, December 30.

## 2) Streamlining WVLS Email Communications

*Monday Mentions* was created in 2018 to reduce the number of emails WVLS members receive from WVLS staff. While every effort is made to include most correspondence in *Monday Mentions*, there are occasions when individual emails need to be sent.

At the September 2024 WVLS Listening Session, it was suggested that emails from WVLS staff include action words in the subject lines. Check out the [WVLS Email Guideline](#) on the WVLS website for details.

[There is also a Digital Byte](#) explaining the guideline. Contact Jamie Matczak at [jmatczak@wvls.org](mailto:jmatczak@wvls.org) if there are any questions.

## 3) WVLS YSIE Canceled in January

The virtual WVLS Youth Services Information Exchange (YSIE) slated for January 8, 2025 has been cancelled. Area youth services colleagues should mark their calendars and plan to attend the next scheduled YSIE on March 5, 2025 from 1 - 3 p.m. at the Tomahawk Public Library. Contact Jamie Matczak at [jmatczak@wvls.org](mailto:jmatczak@wvls.org) if there are any questions.

## 4) Library Legislative Day Registration Open

The Wisconsin Library Association's annual Library Legislative Day will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025. Lodging and a morning program will be held at the Best Western Premier Park Hotel, across the street from the Capitol. WVLS members who plan to join this year should reserve room reservations early.

Bus transportation will be available from Wausau this year. WVLS scholarships will be available for library staff and trustees to attend this event. [Read more on registration information, busing, and lodging.](#)

## **5) NEA Big Read 2025-2026 Grant Cycle Now Open**

The NEA Big Read, a program by the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, is now accepting applications for the 2025-26 cycle.

This initiative offers matching grants of up to \$20,000 to support community-wide reading programs centered around the theme “Our Nature: How Our Physical Environment Can Lead Us to Seek Hope, Courage, and Connection.” The program encourages diverse and creative events inspired by one of 22 selected books, aiming to foster meaningful conversations, celebrate local creativity, and build stronger community connections. [Applications](#) require an Intent to Apply by January 23, 2025, with final submissions due by January 30, 2025. Funded programs will run from September 2025 to June 2026.

## **6) Data Dashboard Dissection #4**

The new, statewide data dashboard pilot of public library data as reported in the Annual Report to DPI continues to run through December 31. The [dashboard is available](#) on the WPLC website.

WVLS staff are breaking down exploring sections for library directors and staff called “Data Dashboard Dissections.” WVLS member librarians who complete each task by the deadline indicated are eligible for a prize. Librarians who complete all four tasks by the deadlines will be eligible to receive a \$25 Amazon gift card.

[Check out the fourth and final “Data Dashboard Dissection”](#) focusing on storytelling and advocacy. This task, including submitting responses via a Google form, should be completed by Friday, December 20.

Congratulations to Greenwood and T.B. Scott (Merrill) for completing Data Dashboard Dissection # 3 !