

Dear ( Prospective member):

Yes, I am going to beg!!! I would really like you to fill out your petition to join Eastern Star this year. Let me tell you why using the 10 reason format from the Letterman Show.

**Reason One:**

The year 2005 would be an easy year to remember when you are old. I joined in 1970, so I will just add 35 on to your year- so I'll always remember your anniversary.

**Reason Two:**

I would selfishly like you to join during my term as Worthy Matron.

**Reason Three:**

We have asked your friends \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to join at the same time. I am begging them too.

**Reason Four:**

Petition signers can qualify for an International award for members brought in this year.

**Reason Five:**

Our state convention will be in Billings and I would love for you to be able to be there. You may go for one day, the whole time, the Installation or any portion. We have so much fun!!

**Reason Six:**

A chance to get involved with community activities. Make a difference in a child's life and your own.

**Reason Seven:**

We have some neat shopping booths for formals at our Grand Chapter and at other Grand Chapters, where we could take you.

**Reason Eight:**

We will call you for meetings and arrange to pick you up if you would like.

**Reason Nine:**

I will offer you a money back guarantee. If you do not like what you see once you give us a chance, I will pay your dues for 2005. Dues are not very expensive for all the fun we have.

**Reason Ten:**

You will build a friendship support group. I have life-long friends that I have met through Star and you will too. No one can have too many friends. And, we have lots of fun!!

There is an evening question session at my home on so you can ask any questions you may have. The other prospective members are invited as well.

Please, please, please consider my pleas. I am so subtle, right? Initiation is \_\_\_\_\_ so I need your petition by \_\_\_\_\_.

Fraternally, and with fun,

## **SAMPLE FORMAT FOR AN OPEN MEETING**

The following open meeting format should be discovered to be very useful in creating a good public image of the Order. Obviously, you may change it as necessary to describe the local OES customs.

## **FOCUS ON FRATERNALISM PREPARATION**

Publicity for the event should be undertaken by using an article similar to the PRESS RELEASE found at the end of the material.

Consider sending a written invitation to:

- Master Masons
  - Female relatives of Master Masons
  - Members of the community that you believe would have values in accord with those of the Order.
  - Your relatives, friends and acquaintances
- A social time with refreshments should be planned to introduce or follow the meeting.
  - Petitions for membership should be made available and follow-up calls or visits should be made to encourage interested individuals to submit a petition
  - A program should be prepared and distributed to all attendees. The program should include the words to the songs that will be sung.
  - Elements of the program:

Entrance of Officers  
Presentation of Flag  
Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem  
Opening Prayer  
Introduction of Grand Officers  
Information About the Order  
Addresses By Selected Grand Officers (if any are to be present)  
Closing Prayer  
Hymn  
God Bless America  
Retiring the Flag

A decision as to attire should be made. Officers participating may consider uniformly wearing formal attire as we would for initiation of new members or installation of officers, if the program is in the evening. Street attire may be worn for an afternoon meeting or if the members believe potential members will respond to a more casual introduction to the Order.

The chapter room should be set up as for a regular meeting, however, the signet should not be displayed, and emblems should not be worn.

The matron may ask someone else to preside during the informational portion of the program, if she chooses. The person chosen should be someone who is an excellent reader, has a voice that is pleasant and who can be heard throughout the room.

Only the matron or the person presiding during the informational portion of the program needs the entire script. All other speakers should be given their responses typed on cards. All speakers should rehearse their responses so they can deliver the information with expression and clarity. Remember, first impressions are important!

## OPENING

Matron and Patron escorted to the east by the Conductresses.

Matron: Ladies and gentlemen we are honored to have you with us this evening. We hope you will be favorably impressed by what you learn about our Order.

I am.....give name.... I am the matron - or the presiding officer of this Chapter. The gentleman to my left is ...give name..., the Patron of the Chapter.

As we begin our meeting I will tell you that we are an organization that responds to the gavel. Three raps tells us to rise. One rap seats us.

(Demonstrate)

We give the civilian salute to the flag whenever it is in motion and while pledging allegiance and singing our national anthem. The glory, beauty and simplicity of our flag never ceases to stir us. The flag symbolizes our aspirations and efforts as Americans, and our devotion to the ideals of the Declaration of Independence. Our flag represents the freedom and justice available to us in these United States of America. As citizens and members of the Order of the Eastern Star we give honor to all it represents.

S. Conductress and S. Associate Conductress, prepare for the entrance of the flag and escort the officers of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # \_\_\_\_ into the room.

Sisters, brothers and friends, Attention.

Gavel causing assembly to rise \*\*\*

(Flag enters first and remains west of altar. Officers march to their stations.)

Sister Marshal and Sister Associate Marshal, escort the flag to the East.

(Flag is escorted to the East)

We will honor our flag and our country by pledging allegiance to the flag and singing the national anthem.

(Pledge and National Anthem)

Sister Marshal and Associate Marshal, escort the flag to its position of honor in the East.

(Flag is posted and Color bearer and Marshals return to their stations.)

Sister Conductress, attend at the altar.

(If visitors have seated themselves, gavel to raise the assembly \*\*\*)

(After Bible is opened, do not perform signs)

Members and friends of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter #\_\_\_\_, man's first duty is to God, who is the creator of the universe and giver of all things good.

Endeavoring to find and to follow the true path, we often unite in prayer, asking our Heavenly Father to endow us with the spirit of faith, truth, and wisdom. In such a prayer our chaplain will now lead us.

Chaplain: Eternal God, our Heavenly Father, imbue us with Thy Holy Spirit as we meet in this assembly. Help us ever to honor Thee in all our relations with each other. Help us to keep the light of knowledge burning brightly, that it may shine with undimmed luster upon the dark and troubled ways of life. Bless our homes and our country and may we ever work together for that true and lasting peace which is found in unselfish service. All glory and honor shall be Thine. Amen.

(Gavel to seat assembly when chaplain is at his/her seat. \*)

Matron: (Omit if no dignitaries are present.)

We have with us several dignitaries of the Order. At this time we will introduce them and honor them by giving a sign of salutation.

Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress, escort \_\_\_\_\_ to the East.

(Proceed with introductions as they would normally be done.)

### INFORMATIONAL PORTION OF MEETING

**Matron:** We have assembled for the purpose of speaking to you about the Order of the Eastern Star. I have asked several of our officers to tell you of our Order. (If another officer is going to take the matron's part, she should be introduced at this point and should begin by saying...

The Order of the Eastern Star was established in 1850 for the cultivation of fraternal, charitable and social practices. It is founded upon the recognition of the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man and the Sisterhood of Woman. Each member professes a belief in a Supreme Being. The Order is dedicated to Charity, Truth and Loving kindness.

Let's explore, for a brief moment, the symbolism of the star. Earliest man looked upward to the heavens and beheld the stars with awe and wonder. It was a star in the Eastern sky that guided the wise men to the Christ Child. Today, we continue to look upward toward the Source of Light with a firm belief in the God who set the universe in motion.

The five pointed star is formed from triangles. Triangles have always been used as symbols to represent family relationships. As members of the Order, we earnestly strive to evolve brotherly and sisterly relationships. Our meetings, like those of the family circle, are held in private. From this fact, has developed the idea that we are a secret society. In truth, we are not. If we were, we would not be at liberty to hold this open meeting and to give others an explanation of our Order.

In an Eastern Star Chapter room we position an altar in the center of the room and upon it we place the Holy Bible. At this altar we kneel and pledge to practice charity, truth and loving kindness. From the altar emanate symbolic rays of light to the five points of our Star.

Seated at the five points of the Star are sisters who represent five Biblical heroines, who by their acts and virtues demonstrate loyalty, devotion, courage, faith, and love. We are taught to exemplify, in our daily lives, these same qualities and virtues, and thus, to give tangible evidence to the world that we

firmly believe in the principles of the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of man, and the Sisterhood of Woman.

The sisters who represent the heroines of our Order will speak to you of the lessons they teach.

(Adah stands to speak, then sits)

**Adah:** I represent Adah, Jephthah's daughter. My story can be found in the Book of Judges. My father, made a vow unto God, that in return for success in battle, he would sacrifice whatsoever greeted him first when he returned home. When it was I, my father was sorely distressed but he could no go back on his word. Because of the noble qualities I exhibited in the face of death, my story teaches of filial devotion, integrity, and truth.

(Ruth stands to speak, then sits)

**Ruth:** I represent Ruth, a widow. My story can be found in the Book of Ruth. A woman of Moab, I married an Israelite who came to live in my country during a time of famine. When he died, I lovingly cared for my mother-in-law, even following her back to Israel where only poverty awaited us. My story teaches us of constancy, loyalty and industry.

(Esther stands to speak, then sits)

**Esther:** I represent Esther, a Jewish maiden, who became the wife of Ahasuerus, King of Persia. I became knowledgeable about government affairs and was trusted by the king for my wise counsel. When the enemies of the Jews brought false accusations against my people and persuaded the king to issue an edict that the entire race should be destroyed, I was able to save my people. My story teaches us of justice, courage and fidelity.

(Martha stands to speak, then sits)

**Martha:** I represent Martha, the sister of Lazarus. My story can be found in the Book of John. When my brother, Lazarus, died, so great was my faith in Jesus, that I sought His intercession with God. My brother was made to live again. My story teaches abiding faith.

(Electa stands to speak, then sits)

**Electa:** I represent Electa, the devout mother referred to in the Second epistle of John. The Roman Emperor issued an order requiring followers of Jesus to renounce their faith or be put to death. I was given two opportunities to recant, but refused. I met death, praying for forgiveness for my persecutors. My story teaches us beneficence, fortitude and steadfastness.

**Matron:** Thank you, sisters. Flowers are constant reminders of the Divine Creator of the Universe. They assume an important part in the ritualistic work of our Order. Sister Conductress, what can you tell us of the traditional flowers of our Order?

(Conductress rises to speak, then sits)

**Conductress:** Our traditional flowers are flowers of the field and garden, rather than rare and exotic blooms. They delight our senses and serve as eloquent reminders of God's love. Flowers in five different colors are seen at the points of our emblematic star to teach us particular lessons.

(As each flower is mentioned the appropriate star point should rise and display the flower.)

The blue violet is emblematic of truth, a virtue that should be always in our hearts.

The yellow jasmine symbolizes service to religious principles and loyalty to family and friends.

The white lily is a symbol of purity, and reminds us of the necessity to maintain pure and exalted ideals.

The pine is ever green, and symbolized hope and immortality. It reminds us that abiding faith in the teachings of Jesus assures us of eternal life.

The red rose is emblematic of love and sacrifice and reminds us that a life devoted to good, will endure throughout eternity.

**Matron:** Thank you, Sister Conductress. Worthy Patron, will you speak to us of the scope of the Order?

**Patron:** The Order of the Eastern Star is the largest fraternal organization in the world to which men and women belong. There are approximately 3 million members and 14,000 Chapters in the United States, Great Britain, Canada and Australia.

This Chapter, formed in \_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_ years old. We have \_\_\_\_ members. Our meetings are held on \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matron:** Thank you, Worthy Patron. Sister Associate Matron, will you tell us of the work of the Order?

(Rises to speak, then sits.)

(Rises to speak, then sits.)

**Associate Matron:** Our fraternal and charitable projects include:

List the Charities from Our Green Book...

Charitable work within our communities (insert examples)

These works of charity and loving kindness are an embodiment of our mission as members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

**Matron:** You have heard the philosophy that guides our Order. Let us speak to you, now, of practical things. Sister Chaplain, some have said that the Order of the Eastern Star attempts to take the place of religion. Please explain the relationship of religion and our Order.

(Rises to speak, then sits)

**Chaplain:** The Order of the Eastern Star is not a religion, nor is it a substitute for religion. It suggests a ways of life that is built upon observance of religious teachings. Membership holds deep meaning and plays a significant role in the lives of those who belong.

**Matron:** Thank you Sister Chaplain. Sister Secretary, our guests may wonder, why, if this is a woman's organization, men also belong? Please tell us about membership.

(Stands to speak, then sits)

**Secretary:** Membership is open to women 18 years of age or older, as well as Master Masons in good standing in their Lodges. A woman who wishes to join the Order fills out a petition for membership on which she acknowledges her belief in a Supreme Being and lists the name of EITHER a Masonic relative or the name of a Master Mason who is a member of the order who will be a sponsor. The petition is submitted to the Chapter, and is investigated by a committee. The petition is then acted upon by the members and initiation is scheduled.

**Matron:** Thank you, Sister Secretary. Sister Warder, our guests may be wondering what dress we adopt at meetings. Will you address this question?

(The following section will need to be written to reflect the customs of each chapter. The statement you will read below reflected this chapter's custom.)

(Stands to speak, then sits)



**Warder:** The officers of the Chapter dress formally for special meetings such as when we receive new members. The other members of the chapter are not required to wear formal attire at any of our meetings. Men usually wear business attire and women wear street-length attire. We are dressed formally this evening to honor you, our guests.

**Matron:** Thank you Sister/Brother Warder. Sister Associate Conductress, please tell our guests what goes on at our meetings.

(Stands to speak, then sits)

**Associate Conductress:** At initiation the five degrees of our Order are conferred. This is a solemn process that is enlightening and interesting to the candidate. There are NO EMBARRASSING MOMENTS. At our regular meetings we conduct the business of the Chapter, hold a program of interest to the members or have some form of entertainment. Refreshments follow all our meetings.

**Matron:** Thank you. I hope we have adequately explained our Order to you. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to ask a member during our refreshment time. (If another officer has presided during the information giving, she should say:

Worthy Matron, your request to inform our guests about our Order has been carried out.

The Matron will briefly thank the officers and the meeting will continue.)

**Matron:** We will now take the opportunity to hear from the grand officers who have joined us this evening.

(Request messages in the usual order. It is wise to have worked out the need for brevity with speakers well in advance of the meeting.)

## CLOSING

**Matron:** We have fulfilled the stated purpose of this meeting. We will join in the closing ceremonies. Our chaplain will lead us in prayer. At the conclusion of the prayer, while the chaplain is at the altar we will sing one verse of

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Sister Chaplain, lead us in prayer.

(Gavel causing assembly to rise\*\*\*)

**Chaplain:** Creator God, we give you thanks for the opportunity to meet in the fellowship of this assembly. We ask you blessing on us as we depart to do Your will in our communities in the days to come. May thy loving care protect us until we meet again. Amen.

**Matron:** Sister Conductress, close the Holy Bible on the altar.

**Matron:** Sisters, brothers and friends, attention. The flag of the United States of America is about to be retired under the escort of the marshal.

(Color bearer presents flag in the East.)

God Bless America is sung

(Flag is retired)

**Matron:** Sisters, brothers and friends, the purpose of the evening having been accomplished, I declare the assembly closed. (Gavel)

Please join us for refreshments and a time of socializing. Farewell.

### **SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE FOR AN OPEN MEETING**

\_\_\_\_\_ Chapter Order of the Eastern Star will hold an open meeting to explain the philosophy and work of the organization to any interested parties. The meeting will be held at 8 PM on February 13, 200\_ at the Masonic Lodge located at \_\_\_\_\_ street in \_\_\_\_\_, Montana. The entrance will be clearly marked. Interested individuals do not need an invitation to attend, but a call to Jane Doe at (406) 123-4567 will help us plan refreshments.

The Order of the Eastern Star is a charitable, social and fraternal organization with approximately 6,300 members in Montana State.

# Prospective Members Night Program

*(Format Adapted from California)*

Emblems should be in place on the pedestals.

The Conductress enters with the Bible, retiring in the normal manner

The WP, AC and AP enter in the normal fashion but do not pause at the altar. Move right to your respective stations.

**WP:** Sister A.C., you will have the Officers enter the Chapter Room.

**A.C.:** The AC goes to the doors as usual in the Opening and invites the Officers into the room.

Do whatever entry into the room you would like. Maybe your regular march in or just straight in like at Installation.

*After the WM is in her station:*

**WM:** The Officers will take their respective stations and prepare for the Prospective Members Night. (Gavel\*)

I am so pleased to welcome each one of you here this evening. Wouldn't it be wonderful if Chapter Rooms were filled like this at every meeting?

Our intent this evening is two-fold. First, we are excited about introducing prospective members- in a small way- to the world of Eastern Star. To let you know, first hand, that what we do here is not totally secretive. Second, I want to encourage some of the members whom we have not seen for awhile to get back in the habit of attending Chapter meetings on the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of every month. We have some exciting meetings and social events planned for 200\_ and our very first Prospective Members Night is only the beginning.

**(The words of Welcome should be personalized by the presiding Worthy Matron.)**

We will now demonstrate for you how we open a Chapter Meeting.

**WM:** Sister Associate Matron

**WM:** What number of officers constitutes a Chapter and what are their titles?

**AM:** There are 18 Officers and their titles are:

(As the AM names each officer, that officer will stand at her/his chair and remain standing. This will require the AM speak slowly)

**WM:** (\*Seat the officers)

In the center of our Chapter Room, surrounding the Altar are our Star Point Officers. My Sisters , may we hear from you?

**Adah:** (Stand and turn toward Altar.) I represent Adah and stand on the blue point of our star. Through the beautiful story of Jephtha's daughter, we learn fidelity. (Remain Standing)

**Ruth:** (Stand and turn towards Altar) I represent Ruth and stand on the yellow point of our star. The story of Ruth and Naomi teaches us patience and constancy. (Remain Standing)

**Esther:** (Stand and take one step toward Altar). I represent Esther and stand on the white point of our star. The story of Esther's unselfish loyalty teaches us to be governed by justice. (Remain Standing)

**Martha:** (Stand and turn toward Altar). I represent Martha and stand on the green point of our star. The story of Martha's faith in God teaches us hope of Eternal Life. (Remain Standing)

**Electa:** (Stand and turn towards Altar). I represent Electa and stand on the Red Point. Electa's life exemplified the meaning of charity and hospitality. (Remain standing)

**WM:** An Altar, originally, was an elevated stone or table on which sacrifices were offered. To the Eastern Star, the Altar is symbolic of the heart. The prepared Altar symbolizes the Spirit of God within the human heart. It is placed between the star points for protection, and its place in the Chapter room is parallel to the importance of the Altar in Biblical times.

Sister Conductress, you will attend at the Altar.

.....  
Let us unite in prayer.

**Chaplain:** (Prayer can be written by the Chaplain)

The Chaplain steps back into the normal position and the Conductress return to their stations.

Musical selection. (Could use your Opening Ode)

**WP:** Words of Welcome. Introduce guest speaker for the evening if you have one. Address approximately 10 minutes.

**WP: Entertain any questions.**

Ask members to stand and introduce non-members. Conductress and Associate Conductress will distribute brochures (Eastern Star – A Way of Life) with a Petition Folded inside to all non-members.

Thank you's

Necessary announcements.

**WM:** The WM should have some closing thoughts.

We will have the Mizpah Benediction followed by the Officers retiring March. Afterwards we would be happy to speak to any of you that may have questions.

**PREPARATIONS FOR THE PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS NIGHT:**

1. It would be nice to begin the evening with a dinner. You could charge \$5.00 to regular members and non-members guests would be free, as is the speaker for the evening.
2. You should have greeters and maybe pin - ons.
3. Your program should start around 7 pm and end by 8 pm. You should have Petitions for Initiation, Petitions for affiliation for after the meeting. The speaker, Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron form an informal line in order to greet and speak with the members and guests as they retire. Officers should also make themselves available. (If they are not working in the kitchen)

**KISMIF**

(Keep it simple make it fun)

### **WORTHY MATRON:**

Tonight we say Happy Birthday to our Chapter. We can think of no better way to extend our sincere good wishes than to rededicate ourselves openly to the Chapter and to the Order by reaffirming our devotion in the renewal of our obligation.

### **ASSOCIATE MATRON:**

Do you remember the night you entered the preparation room door, and the things that filled your heart and mind at the time?

### **CONDUCTRESS**

Do you recall the gentle guidance of your Conductress as she graciously led you around the room with words of encouragement and enlightenment?

### **ADAH**

Do you remember my story, the story of Adah, and the sacrifice I made for my father? Think deeply of my virtues – **FILIAL DEVOTION, INTEGRITY AND TRUTH.**

### **RUTH**

Do you remember my story, the story of Ruth, and my trials as I journeyed with my mother-in-law? Think deeply of my virtues – **CONSTANCY, LOYALTY AND INDUSTRY.**

### **ESTHER**

Do you recall my story, Queen Esther, who bravely faced death in my concern for the welfare of my people? Meditate on my virtues – **JUSTICE, COURAGE AND FIDELITY.**

### **MARTHA**

Do you remember my story, the Faith of Martha, and my sincere belief in the infallibility and love of my Lord? Dwell upon my virtue – **ABIDING FAITH**—and hold it close to your heart.

### **ELECTA**

I am Electa. Remember my story, and the price I paid for refusing to renounce my faith. Think deeply of my virtues – **BENEFICENCE, FORTITUDE and STEADFASTNESS**, for they offer great strength in times of stress

(Marshal escorts Worthy Matron, Assoc Matron, Assoc Patron, Treas. And Secretary down to the floor. (Or Marshal leads all members around the altar as Installation)Worthy Patron stands at the East (or goes to the altar) and gives the obligation and the entire room responds. Then CHAPLAIN goes to altar and kneels giving the prayer.

**CHAPLAIN**

Eternal Father, bear witness to the oaths of our sisters and brothers, as they are offered reverently and honestly in Thy presence. Help each of us to live our lives exemplifying the virtues of the Five Heroines of our Order, and direct our efforts and endeavors in the path of Light and Truth. Amen.

(Rises)

All join in singing "Blest be the Tie that Binds".

All Members are then escorted back to their places.