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Greetings to you, a devoted member of Iowa Eastern Star:

The following letter has met with astonishing acceptance and results since I presented it to the members of my own chapter, and to the members of Chapters I have been privileged to visit recently. To continue obtaining results, I am asking that this letter be shared with every dues paying and 50-year Eastern Star Member. Please share this with your chapter members, and when you visit any chapter, strike up a conversation, and let us work together as one big old, dedicated committee of concerned and determined members to generate income for the General Fund of Grand Chapter. I would respectfully ask that copies of this communication be made to give to your Sisters and Brothers if at all possible.. Please, please help ME get this into the hands of every Iowa Eastern Star Member. We need your help. It's that simple. If Iowa members do not step up and realize the dire situation of the General Fund, there will be no Eastern Star in a very few short years. If you have pulled up to the pump or visited a grocery store you are very well aware that costs are going up. Just think about what this letter is saying. Give it your complete attention, and remember that Grand Chapter is a business, with income and expenses. Right now, the expenses vastly exceed the income. There are very few reserves to draw from and those balances are dwindling at an alarming rate.

This is a simple doable idea. And your cooperation is so important...so very important.

All I am asking you to do, is to consider this: **Is Iowa Grand Chapter is worth a dime to you.**

Thank you in advance. I truly appreciate you time and consideration.

Take care,
Blessings

Cheryl

From the desk of the Worthy Grand Matron

Hello, my Sisters and Brothers,

I have something that has been on my mind for a long time. This year has been a tremendous learning experience for me. I want to share this idea with you. I admit, I am nervous as to how this will be received. I don't wish to cause trouble, but I also can't sit back and ride out the rest of my term without trying to make everyone understand.

How many of us see all those commercials on television asking for money? You know the ones I mean some want \$19.00 a month to help save abused animals, some want your donation of \$20.00 a month to help children in hospitals, and some want your money to support some candidate running for whatever position.

Those are all worthwhile charities and being the kind of people we are, we rush to help, sending in our monthly donations without a second thought. It is the nature of most human beings to see the suffering, afflictions, and poverty affecting our fellow man, and with hearts full of compassion and care, most of us give what we can to help.

Well, I want to tell you that our own beloved Iowa Order of the Eastern Star is in trouble. There simply is not enough income to meet expenses. The general fund is what this business operates on, and every year, we have to rob Peter to pay Paul, and Peter is just about tapped out and will have to be repaid very soon. Yes, we have investments. Yes we have stocks. But every year we have to pull money out of those investments to meet our expenses. This will not last much longer.

Well, Cheryl, what if we raised our dues? Wouldn't that help? Of course, it would help, unfortunately that is legislation, and we don't have time for legislation this year. Maybe next year this can be discussed, and legislation is proposed; I really hope it becomes a reality.

But, Cheryl, we have money in several accounts! Thousands of dollars, why are we going broke? Because the ESTARL fund, the Educational fund, the Session Fund to name a few---all those are restricted funds. Can't touch them. All those funds are dedicated funds. But, Cheryl, we give money to the homes, to ESTARL, to the Educational Board, that all goes to Grand Chapter. True, but all those donations that members give to those places, GOES to those places, and does not benefit Grand Chapter's General Fund in any way, at all. Grand Chapter is the funnel, so your money comes in and goes directly to the destination you dictate on the memo line of your check.

Nobody is suggesting that you should not give to those places. OF COURSE, it is perfectly all right, it is your choice. Just know that those donations do not benefit the General Fund at all. Take the homes for instance. Iowa Eastern Star does NOT own these facilities. They are their own entities; they have their own 501-C-3 status; they do NOT belong to Eastern Star. Your donations are welcomed with gratitude. But your donations to these places do not benefit the General Fund at all.

So, I want to ask you, what does the Order of the Eastern Star mean to you? Why do you belong? What is the reason that keeps you as a member? Is it the fellowship? Friendships? What we do as an Organization by helping raise money for the Worthy Grand Matron's Project? Is the Ritual work? Are you proud of our Proficiency? Every member belongs for a reason.

So, let me ask you this: **is the Order of the Eastern Star worth a dime to you?** Yes a dime...ten pennies... one tenth of a dollar...one little silver dime. Do you have you a dime in your pocket or purse or one floating around in the tray in the car or hiding in the sofa in your home? Have you a jar of the little pieces of silver at home?

What if every dues paying and lifetime member of Iowa Eastern Star donated one dime, every day, 365 days a year to Grand Chapter? Sound silly? Correct: it is not feasible, to send in one dime a day, but each member could save a dime each day. Right? How much of a hardship is saving one dime a day?

So, let us take it a step further: What if we remember our Obligation; you know that one you took when you were initiated? That one that says: I will so far as in my power, give to my sisters and brothers....advice, sympathy and aid in their misfortunes?"

My dear Family, all of your Sisters and Brothers are in immediate need. There isn't enough money to keep our Beloved Iowa Eastern Star in business much longer. Remember that Obligation, then add this to it. We all listen to the Star Points in opening ceremonies and initiations; we listen, but do we hear?

What about Adah, who sacrificed her life for what she believed in. Would you be willing to sacrifice one dime a day to help the Order survive? One dime a day...365 days a year.

Let's talk about Ruth. Remember how she gathered a little here and a little there to prepare for the future? Are you willing to do the same? If you gather one dime, every day, for 365 days, would that make a difference? Moving on to Esther who was the light for her people. Are you willing to save one dime, every day for a year to help Grand Chapter find the light at the end of the tunnel? Just one dime, every day for a year. We should all have the faith of Martha. Do you have faith that one little dime, every day for a year would help turn the General Fund around? Just one little dime. Electa taught that charity and hospitality are sublime attributes of Christians. Are you ready, willing, and able to commit to saving one dime every day to help Grand Chapter? Grand Chapter's General Fund is in need of your help. One dime a day for a year is \$36.50. Is YOUR Iowa Eastern Star worth your donation of one dime a day to preserve the Order for the future? You do the math. If every member, lifetime included would just save one dime a day for 365 days, do you have a clue how much money that would be? It would be about \$144,000. Yes, that's right! And all from the commitment of saving and donating **one dime a day**. Would you miss it? I doubt it. Some don't even bother to pick a dime up from the sidewalk; not worth the trouble of bending over to pick it up. I would almost bet that most of us have a change jar where you dump your change and why? Why not put that change to good use? I am asking...no, that's a lie. I am begging you to consider what I have just told you. I won't lie to you. The General Fund has become an endangered entity on life support, and all of us must remember our lessons from the Star, and help this living entity heal and become well and thriving, just like we do when we see a Sister or a Brother in need. It's who we are. It's what we do. It's what we **MUST** do, or The Order will not survive. So, let me ask you again. **Is Iowa Eastern Star worth a dime???** Thank you for your time. Thank you for helping me to help our beloved Grand Chapter General Fund. I truly appreciate your consideration.

Cheryl Payne

Worthy Grand Matron of Iowa