David Kahle named Paul Harris Fellow

Past District Governor Bob Stetter of Valentine presented a challenge for membership increase to Rotary Clubs in District 5630. Participating clubs each contributed $100 and the $1,200 would go to the club gaining the most net members for the year that Stetter was in office.

In the meantime, David Kahle, who was one of the newest Imperial members, attended a Rotary Foundation meeting where he got pumped up to learn all that Rotary stands for. He stirred up enthusiasm by sharing information and encouraging members to recruit.

The push resulted in an additional 10 members. Two names were removed from the local roll with one of them moving from the area, and Imperial won the contest with an eight-member net increase.

The $1,200 was designated to the Polio Plus program. In the program's 20 years of providing polio vaccinations, it's been on the brink of eradicating polio across the world.

However as long as polio threatens one child, all children are still at risk. Rotary International is striving to raise $200 million to match the $355 million challenge grant from the Gates Foundation. The $555 million would support immunizations in developing countries where polio is still a threat, working towards the goal of totally eradicating the dreadful disease.

Whenever an individual reaches the $1000 donation level towards a Rotary Foundation project, that person is named an honored Paul Harris Fellow. Paul Harris, an admired professional and individual, founded Rotary 104 years ago.

Because $1,200 in contributions was made by the club after winning the contest, the club could select a member to be honored. Kahle, membership chairman, was selected because of his commendable efforts.