



**By Jan Schultz**

***The Imperial Republican***

District Governor Chris Gentry of Hyannis was a special guest at Tuesday's Imperial Lions Club meeting.

He spoke to the 17 members in attendance, centering on his theme, "This is the Year."

Gentry, a fourth generation cattle rancher, said "This is the year" for members to ask that friend, neighbor or co-worker to become a Lion.

"This is the year," he said, if a member has been thinking about Lions service on the district and state levels.

Mirroring the "this is the year" theme of the Chicago Cubs, he also passed around a baseball for everyone to sign as a memento of his visit to Imperial.

Gentry said youths are a big focus of his year as District Governor, with a goal of starting at least one Leo Club in District L.

While there are several Leo clubs, Lions-sponsored organizations for youths age 12 to 18, in eastern Nebraska, there are none in western Nebraska yet, he noted.

He encouraged the Imperial Lions to consider it, and emphasized school administration must be on board to get a Leo club off the ground and successful.

Attendance at this weekend's District Midwinter Convention in North Platte was also encouraged. Lions from District L and I will meet Jan. 25-26 for the annual midwinter event again this year.

Imperial members were informed of the "new project" contest Dist. Gov. Gentry is sponsoring in the district, which will award two clubs cash prizes for new projects that involve youth.

Gentry presented certificates and chevrons to eight members of the club for membership longevity, as follows:

10 years—Dirk Hill, Judy Gaswick, Randy Carlholm.

25 years—Nick Schultz, John Osler, Gene Moreland, Merril Humphreys, Ron Hegwood.

Nate Jenkins, the newest member of Imperial Lions, and the club's youngest members, Troy and Angie Worth, received state Lions pins from the District Governor.

The club voted to send \$250 to the family of Elaine Grasz, who was killed in an accident late last year near North Platte. Grasz was serving as president of the Brady Lions Club at the time of her death.

Accompanying Dist. Gov. Gentry to the meeting was his wife, Jeanne.

In line to follow Gentry as District Governor for the 2013-14 term is Ron Patrick, a member of the Grant Lions Club.