

Gibbon American Legion
1029 Court Street
Gibbon, NE 68840

April 2014

LEGION HOURS:

Sunday—Tuesday: 6 a.m.— 7 p.m.

Wednesday— Thursday: 6—10 p.m.

Friday—Saturday: 6 a.m.—midnight

Bradley Buck #310

Meet Vernon Schuster

Legion member Vernon Schuster, graduated in 1955 from Hampton High School in Hampton, Nebraska. His parents, Ed and Lucy, were from Johnson County, and then moved to a farm near Hampton. They raised six sons and a daughter: Gene, Orville, Vernon, Virgil, Dennis, Ronnie and Virginia. All the boys joined the Armed Services but were fortunate enough to all miss combat. Virgil joined the Air Force, Gene enlisted in the Navy and the other four joined the United States Army. "Gene's ship was loaded and ready for battle, but they war ended before they received the call," said Vernon.

"I went into service right after high school, so I could get that part of my life behind me," said Vernon. He volunteer enlisted during the draft era and spent his Basic Training at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas, for eight weeks and then completed his Advanced Training in Ft. Dix, New Jersey. Vernon was trained in Basic Infantry, graduating December 23, 1955, and then transported via troop train to Oakland, California. The train stopped in every little town and Vernon figured he'd arrive in Grand Island at midnight. He called his folks and told them to be at the station; maybe he could spend five minutes with them. His parents, on their way to Christmas midnight mass, waited on the train platform to hug their son, but the train didn't stop. Vernon saw his parents waving to him as



Upcoming Events

April 1: April Fool's Day

April 12: Family Night, Paws DJ Service
7-10pm

April 19: Easter Egg Hunt, 1 p.m. @
Davis Park

April 27: Volunteer Banquet, 5 p.m.

April 28: Membership Mtg, 7:30 p.m.

April 29: Lunch & Learn, Noon

Officers

Commander

Rick Lange

Vice Commander

Gene Giger

Financial Officer

Mick Ross

Adjutant

John Arias

Sergeant at Arms

Jim Myrick

Chaplain

Frank Spotanski

Service Officer

Cliff Tillemans

Newsletter Editor

Julie Schnitzler



Vernon Schuster at Schofield's Barrack's

the train sped by on Christmas night.

Vernon was sent to Hawaii, serving in 35th Infantry Division, stationed at Schofield Barracks. His unit practiced Infantry maneuvers. "One evening a 2nd Lieutenant walked through the barracks announcing he was looking for volunteers for the rifle team," said Vernon. "During Basic Training, I had scored first place with my Automatic Rifle and won a three-day pass to Philadelphia, so I had confidence in my shot and thought I'd try it."

"Lieutenant Spalding was a good trainer and we got along fine. I could beat him most of the time," said Vernon. He mostly appreciated that he was assigned to special duty for the rifle team so he didn't have to train in the rain. "In Hawaii we mostly attacked Kauai Hill. It rained so much that it filled our foxholes and made training miserable." Vernon remembers after a rain, his Unit marched back home. There was a washout in which Vernon stepped and his pant leg up to the hip was soaked. On the rifle team, Vernon and his teammates practiced firing their rifles in different positions: prone, standing, crouching. According to Vernon, the rifle team was able to go through the barracks and pick the M1's that they wanted to use. Vernon's team stayed on the island of Hawaii, competing against other rifle teams. According to the *Cacti News* dated March 16, 1957, "The 35th Infantry proved a rude host unit as it snared the 25th Infantry Division M-1

Rifle Championship....A blistering 4259, 68 points better than the runner-up 14th Infantry, gained the Cacti the crown.....Top scorer for the 35th was PFC Vern Schuster (Company A) with a 229 featuring 10 V's....A tip of the Cacti News' helmet liner to the CHAMPIONS."

"If I'd have stayed in the U.S. Army, I could have trained for the Olympics, but Dad needed help picking corn, so I went home. In 1957, Vernon received an early Honorable Discharge, so he could help on the family farm. As all servicemen at the time, Vernon was required to serve two years in the Reserves and was assigned to an Ordnance Company in Columbus. He spent two Annual Trainings in Tooele, Utah, where they were reconditioning jeeps and tanks.

Vernon's dad farmed for a couple years before selling the farm and moving to Columbus. Vernon secured a job at the Oliver Implement Dealer in Columbus and met his wife, Marguerite.

"I became good friends with the Oliver territory man, and he wanted me to open a dealership in Gibbon. I managed the store that started as an Oliver implement before going through a series other companies, including White and Agco," Vernon said.

"Ernie Smith and I were in partnership for 1 ½ years before my brother Orville bought out Ernie."

Vernon and Orville worked the business together from 1972 to 2007. "One day, Wes Hodge from Gibbon Packing asked to purchase our business, and in 30 days we had it sold. It was time to sell Schuster Implement; I had a heart attack in 2006 and it was just time to sell."

Vernon and Marguerite raised six children: Yvonne, Angela, Louise, Robert, Steven, and Jayson. They have nineteen grandchildren and are proud to announce a great-grandchild on the way. Vernon enjoys golf and babysitting grandchildren. He would like to get more involved in shooting sports but mostly enjoys the flexibility of retirement. As we closed the interview, Vernon reiterated again, "I had it easy during my service in the military; I admire and have gratitude for those men served in combat.

MINUTES from Special Meeting on March 10, 2013

Commander Rick Lange opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. with 14 members present. Rick stated the purpose of the special meeting to accept the proposal of the loan and hiring a manager. All bills have been paid up to date under the approval of Exchange Bank representative, Kevin Hynes. We have \$17,000.00 in over drafts. Mick Ross went over the loan details, so that everyone could understand the figures. With the consolidation of the furnace loan and overdrafts, the loan totals \$145,000. Our monthly payment will be \$1170.00. Cliff made a motion to accept the loan restructure, and the motion carried. Mick mentioned that former manager Ryan Brehmer was willing to come back and Kevin Hynes is in support of him. Ryan is willing to come back to work for the same \$24,000.00. He asked need \$200.00/month for health insurance and paid holidays. Gene Giger made a motion to hire Ryan Brehmer as manager. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

MINUTES from Membership Meeting March 25, 2013

Commander Rick Lange opened the meeting at 7:28 p.m. with 17 members, SAL Liaison, Steve VanMeter and manager Ryan Brehmer present. **DONATIONS:** Don & Myrtle Halkyard, \$25 for Easter Egg candy. Lee Meents donated labor to repair plumbing. Bud & Betty Stall and Sue Tillemans donated labor at the Legion. Auxiliary donated desserts and salads for the Bull Fry. Tom & Barb Christy prepared the St. Patrick's Day meal. Chet Morgan reported Recovered 120 chairs. 58 hours **MEETING MINUTES:** Lee Meents made a motion to approve minutes as read. Motion carried. **FINANCE REPORT:** January P&L and bank balances were given by Mick Ross. Greg Brodine made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Motion carried. **MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ryan reported April events. Bull Fry profit? 200 people attended. Karaoke was full. Crane Breakfast: 283 people and largest profit, \$2700. District 6 convention will return March 8, 2015, to the Gibbon Legion. **ADJUTANT'S REPORT:** National thanked us for \$184 for NEF. 13 Veterans will receive continuous membership pins prior to the. April membership meeting. Have 21 members who have not paid for 2014. Top Recruiters: Rick and Spot, 5; Cliff, 7; Larry Anderson, 1; **VICE COMMANDER REPORT:** \$362 in donations for Easter Egg Hunt. **SERVICE OFFICER REPORT:** Sent card to Don Cline and Don Halkyard and Joy Rayburn's wife. **SGT AT ARMS:** No report. **SAL LIAISON:** Thank you for exterior sign initiated by Juan Arredondo. SAL received \$1500 in Memorial money and will donate it to the Legion. Also, SAL will pay for another month's fee to Chramosta Accounting. **BASEBALL COMMITTEE:** Raffle tickets are available for sale. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Meadow Muffin will be held on July 4; proceeds to Boys State and Legion Newsletter. Easter Egg hunt on April 19. **NEW BUSINESS AND CORRESPONDENCE:** John Arias is organizing Lunch and Learn s. In coordination with the Buffalo County Sheriff's Office, Kearney Police Department and Buffalo County Emergency Management, the Gibbon Legion will provide community educational programs. Darrin Lewis will present on emergency protocol in April. The May topic will be frauds and scams. **GOOD OF THE ORDER:** John Arias made a motion to accept the five nominations for Honored Volunteers: Larry & Ruth Galloway, Cliff & Sue Tillemans, Marilyn Brockmeier, Juan Arredondo, and Kathy Thomas. Motion carried. Ace Irrigation and L&S Industries will be recognized on a plaque. Members were asked to sign a letter in support of John Arias. Meeting Adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

PICTURES from Bull Fry



District #6

Hosted by Post #310
In Gibbon, Nebraska

Legion,
Auxiliary,
SAL &
Legion
Riders

March 9,
2014





SAL members: Jim Wicht, Pat Paitz, Steve VanMeter, Roger Swearingen, and Ivan Klein hang the 4' x 10' donated sign that denotes the name of our Gibbon Legion Post.

SAL member's idea becomes reality

SAL member, Juan Arredondo, realized the Gibbon Legion building needed a sign after he'd been asked several times about the building's use. Juan has worked for L&S Industries in Kearney for the past eight years, but has been in the metal business since 1976. L&S Industries and Arredondo donated the metal and labor to create the sign. The material was approximately \$150 and it took the laser cutter 35 minutes to cut the letters. There was also additional labor using the computer-assisted drawing (CAD) to design the sign. According to L&S Manager Jeff Fruhling, they've been in the metal spinning business since July 1985, and the company makes component part for other industries, including Baldwin Filters and Orthman. L&S Industries has 30 employees.

After the sign had been cut, Ace Irrigation of Kearney agreed to paint the sign. According to Production Foreman, Pete Magee, we sandblasted and cleaned the metal sign. Then we hung it, heated it and sprayed it with a blue dry powder paint and baked it, so it has a 180 PSI impact resistance. Magee said, "we've been powder-coating at Ace for 15 years, but we have a diverse operation with a variety of customers; we make rubber molding, irrigation parts, culverts and more. We have over 50 employees here, and don't have any slow seasons."

Former SAL Commander, Steve VanMeter, thanks Juan, L&S Industries and Ace Irrigation for donating the materials and labor. "I have no idea the cost, but when we tried to pay Mike Thomas at Ace he said, "None of those Legion members ever sent me a bill for going to war for me, they won't get a bill from me either."

Arredondo's father, Jose, and grandfather, Ben, served in the United States Army. Like those men, Juan wants no recognition. "I just did it because it needed to be done. I was happy to do it."

Juan receives recognition

Juan Arredondo receives a Certification of Appreciation for his efforts to make the exterior sign for the Post #310 a reality.



LUNCH AND LEARN

WHEN
Tuesday, April 29
Noon – 1 p.m.

WHERE
**Gibbon American
Legion**
1029 Court Street, Gibbon, NE 68840

FEATURING · Darrin Lewis ·
Buffalo County Emergency
Management Director

**SEVERE
WEATHER
EMERGENCY
PROTOCOL**

LUNCH SERVED
Order the Lunch special
Or off the menu

**EVERYONE
WELCOME**

SPONSOR
**Gibbon Exchange
Bank**

**IN
PARTNERSHIP**

Gibbon American Legion
Buffalo County Sheriff
Department
Buffalo County
Emergency Mgt.

**FUTURE
PRESENTATIONS**
being conducted
the last Tuesday of
every month.



<Bud Stall removes snow;
Rick Lange welcomes House
of Representative Adrian
Smith; VChet Morgan helps
replace the carpet. Photos
courtesy of Barb Christy.



Volunteer Recognition Banquet

Sunday, April 27 @ 5:00 p.m.

Since 2008, the Gibbon American Legion has hosted the Volunteer Recognition Banquet to officially honor those who have supported the Legion families (Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL) in the past year. Honorees do not have to be members. Plan to honor the Volunteers and view a slideshow of 2013 in review, including: July 4th, Veterans Day, State Fair, Memorial Day and more.....

Membership Awards

The following members will receive their continuous membership pins at the beginning of the April meeting. Family members are encouraged to receive the pins if the Legion member is unable to attend. All questions regarding membership should be directed Adjutant John Arias.

5 Years

Dean Brown

Louis Bruckner

Patricia Cantu

Ronald Cline

Rhonda McClellan

Jamie Obrecht

Lonnie Wilson

10 Years

Alan McCall

Peter Tannis

15 Years

Lee Meents

James Saalfeld

20 Years

Frank Carr

Arthur Carpenter

45 Years

Larry Anderson

60 Years

Don Halkyard

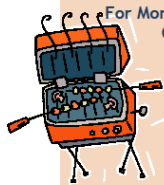
April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 April Fools	2 New York Strip	3 Basket Night	4 Prime Rib	5 Gibbon Education Foundation Gala
6	7	8 Chamber of Commerce: noon	9 New York Strip	10 Basket Night	11 Prime Rib	12 Family Night, PawsDJ: 7pm
13	14 Red Hats 6pm	15	16 New York Strip	17 Basket Night	18 Prime Rib	19 Easter Egg Hunt 1 pm. @ Davis Park
20 Easter	21	22	23 David Domina; Senate Candidate: 10a.m. & noon	24 Basket Night	25 Prime Rib	26
27 Volunteer Banquet, 5pm	28 Membership Mtg, 7:30 p.m.	29 Lunch & Learn, Noon	30 New York Strip			

Family Night at

Gibbon American Legion

Join us for a night of fun, food
and dancing: PAWS DJ Service
Saturday, April 12,
7-10 p.m.



For More Information, contact
Cliff Tillemans
sheepdog2000@yahoo.com
Gibbon American Legion
RSVP: 308-468-5845

Baseball Raffle

Gibbon American Legion Post 310
Legion Baseball Fundraiser

1st Prize

4 rounds of golf with carts at Aawari
Dunes

2nd Prize

\$150 Cash

3rd Prize

\$100 cash

4th Prize

Cabela's propane cooker/smoker

5th Prize (2)

1 each Nebraska state wide Buck Hur

6th Prize (2)

\$50 cash each

7th Prize (2)

1 each 5 qt oil change-lube & Filter
Service

8th Prize (2)

1 each Kearney Valentino's Family
Pack certificate

One for \$5, Three for \$10,
or ten for \$35

Baseball Chairman, Randy Stocker, has organized the Annual Baseball Raffle. All proceeds will support the Shelton/Gibbon Junior and Senior Baseball teams. Thank you to the businesses who've donated, ticket sellers and buyers. We are proud to offer the Legion baseball opportunity to our local youth. Tickets are on sale now; stop at the Gibbon Legion or see a Legion member. The raffle will be held on Saturday, June 5. More details will be shared in the next monthly newsletter.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

