



Fred C. Wiedeberg  
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**Date:** July 8, 2025

**Present Members:** Melissa Ramirez, Kae Nelson, Jim Haddix, Stephanie Disney, Ken Childers, Fred Wiedeberg, Whitney Whatley

**Absent Members:** All Present

**Meeting Called to Order:** 10:04am by Board President, Stephanie Disney

**Pledge of Allegiance** was recited

**Open Meeting Act** was announced by Board President, Stephanie Disney

**Role Call:**

- All board members and VSO staff were present

#### **April Minutes**

- Minutes were mailed out prior to the meeting.
- Minutes were motioned and approved. Kae & Ken

**Veterans Service Officers Report:** *All reports were given by VSO Wiedeberg*

- Quarterly report was given
- Jim Haddix asked how many veterans does the VSO serve
  - Fred responded with 1200 total, approximately 900 in Cheyenne County

#### **Old Business**

- DAV Van Purchase
  - A new van costs \$56,000. We will be responsible for covering half and still need approximately \$19,000.
  - Elks gave \$1,000
  - Area veteran saw newspaper article written about the Elks donating to the van and came in and donated \$1,000
  - Area anonymous donating group gave \$6,000

#### **New Business**

- Education around the VA assistance with education tuition is needed. Melissa Ramirez, with her knowledge has offered to share. This could be a good way to share dependent benefits, centrally locate the information for easy access, and create flyers with information to push out to the communities.
  - **ACTION ITEM** – the VSO will come up with something and push it out to the board
- Career Pathways class at Sidney High School is going to start partnering with the VSO to talk to students. The plan as of now is to explore the branches of the military and invite guest speakers that are veterans.

- Jim Haddix – listens to the radio, local business commentary, and reading the telegraph – would like to know what type of impact veterans are having on our community.
  - Has anyone asked that?
  - His opinion is that veterans are not getting enough credit for what they are doing in this community.
  - What more can businesses do to entice veteran business?
- Melissa Ramirez –She believes that promoting veteran business owners will help.
  - What can we put out that gives positivity to the community?
  - Per Whitney, we currently share any information (on the VSO Facebook page) that the current veteran owned businesses share. The only list that has been gathered of Veteran Owned Businesses was gathered at the Small Business workshop a few years ago.

**Good of the Cause**

- None at this time.

**Meeting adjourned: 10:47 – Ken & Kae**

**Next Meeting: October 14**