Call to order was at 8:14 AM. Group stood and said Pledge of Allegiance. It was noted that there was the required quorum of 50% present.

Chair Sage Rife-TeBeest gave the opening remarks. Included was introduction of new officers: Rife-TeBeest; Chair, Dan Knupp; Vice-Chair; Von Peterson; Treasurer, and Paula Roegge, Secretary.

Jeff Zamrzla moved to accept the minutes from the January meeting in Dodge City, KS. Kenny Riffel seconded. Motion passed.


Jeff Zamrzla gave the Rules and Bylaws Committee report. There had been a discussion of dues at the last meeting. Jeff Zamrzla reported that the District cannot require dues from county parties, but they could be given voluntarily by the counties.

Rife-TeBeest expressed the need for a fairer way of selecting delegates for the State Committee. Suggested were: have the chair appoint delegates, select regional hubs and have those members vote, or to keep the current method. Some counties don’t have representation. It was suggested that there be a meeting for delegates held separately from reorganization meeting. Zamrzla noted that their next committee meeting would be March 12, 2017, and that he would email copies of the updated bylaws when the committee was finished.

Kenny Riffel gave the Finance Committee report. He said the Bylaw Committee had to finish their work before the Finance Committee could meet.

Four candidates for state office spoke: Carolyn Marie Fugit – Secretary; Kathryn Focke – Chair; Larry Hicks – Vice Chair; Alex Herman – Secretary.

Anna Hand from Kansas Young Democrats spoke briefly. Her email is annahand38@gmail.com.

Jim Swim from the Credentialing Committee gave a short report.

New Business

Sage Rife-TeBeest talked about creating a website for the 1st District. There is no centralized office, so having a website would make it easier for everyone to communicate. Minutes could be posted, information about officers, events and agendas, and could also be a site to take donations. There are approximately 70,000 registered Democrats in the 1st District.

It was noted that the 1st District’s mission is to find, cultivate, and elect people to the US Congress.
Counties would be able to post their events on the new website. It could also be used to help new counties get organized. Sage offered to personally fund the website for the first year. The approximate yearly cost for the website would be about $230.

Jeff Zamrzla moved to appoint a special committee to establish a 1st District website. Jo Schwartz spoke in favor. Zach Worf seconded the motion and it was passed.

Matt Otte moved and Kenny Riffel seconded the motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Paula Roegge
Secretary, First Congressional District
Kansas Democratic Party