The Kansas Democratic Party First District met at Washington Days in Topeka on March 3, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Chair Sage Rife-TeBeest. A form was passed around to sign in for credentialing for the state committee meeting. Sage mentioned that she has paperwork for six counties who are not up-to-date on their paperwork. That paperwork must be filled out and returned to the state ASAP or those counties will be considered unorganized.

Von Peterson gave the Treasurer’s Report. As of March 3, 2018, the First District has a balance of $1,099.70. It was noted that the donations through Act Blue have made a definite difference in our running balance and everyone is encouraged to contribute and to pass on to our home counties the necessity for contributions. They can sign up through the website, which is bigfirstdems.org. Jo Schwartz moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report. It was seconded and passed.

The need for a Democratic candidate for the House of Representatives was discussed. The first district has talked to 11 possible candidates. The first choice is very interested and wanted to run but is employed by Kansas State University and found that she unfortunately would be fired if she chose to run. She does plan to wait and run in the 2020 campaign. Therefore at this time we do not have a candidate. As far as local seats go we have two incumbents running and two new candidates registered and running.

At this time we had several candidates for state offices speak. These included Brian McClendon for Secretary of State; Nathaniel McLaughlin for Secretary of State; Marci Francisco, Secretary of State; and Jim Ward, candidate for governor.

Chris Reeves gave a Democratic National Committee update from the Unity Reform Commission. For the 2020 caucus, they will change to firehouse rules where Democrats can come and drop a ballot and leave, they will no longer have to stay the entire day. They can come back later if they so choose to elect delegates. The number of caucus sites will expand to at least one per county - larger counties may have more than one site. Mr. Reeves also reported on the new Rural Development Council and new Rural Agricultural Council. These are to help promote to the DNC what is needed in rural areas. He has also been working on KanCare and the needed changes there.

Levi Smith who is running for the Kansas House from the 65th district and Jo Schwartz who is running for the Kansas House 70th district gave short presentations.

The minutes from the First District meeting on October 21, 2017, in Salina were presented. It was moved by Jeremy Adkison to accept said minutes, seconded and passed.

Chair TeBeest called for new business. There was none.
Jo Schwartz moved to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned.

Paula Roegge
Secretary, First Congressional District
Kansas Democratic Party