

Notes from the 14th Kansas Senate District

Issue 1

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Kansas Senator Bruce Givens
NOTES FROM THE 14TH

The Legislative Session has been going on for some 13 days. Things are starting to get interesting and busy. Bills are being introduced and hearings held, however, not one bill has been designated for General Orders. (a bill must be on GO in order to be voted on). On Kansas Day, January 29, I had the privilege to lead the Senate in singing our State song, Home on the Range!

Farm Bureau has introduced SB32 that would create a new opportunity for many FB members to apply for a type of health insurance. It is not going to be a perfect fit for all FB members, but it will create a good option. We will be working this bill in committee very soon. The hearing on SB32 concluded today (1/30/19).



On January 24th, Miss Kansas, Hannah Klaassen, was recognized on the Senate Floor for her work across Kansas. She speaks to schools and organizations on mental health issues and driving without texting, to name a couple of topics. Hannah is from my home town of Arkansas City. She is shown here with Senator Alley of Cowley County, Senator Taylor who represents Pratt (home of the Miss Kansas Pageant and Senator Lynn who has been a judge at Miss Kansas.

The sports betting issue is still being addressed, but a bill hasn't been introduced. The groups involved will be meeting and trying to work out details of a bill that can be introduced and come out of committee. Senator Olsen introduced the horse and dog racing bill-the same bill from last year. I seconded the motion for introduction.

A tax bill will make it to the Senate Floor by next week. This is a reduction of state income taxes. For the most part, I am for this bill and hope to support it. Part of the bill will "decouple" Kansas income tax from the federal income tax regulations. I support this however, the state of Kansas will need to hire nearly 25

people to work at the Kansas Revenue Department to process Kansas Income Tax. The federal IRS will not do it if “decoupled”.

Middle school student, Emma Krueger of Burlington USD 244, won the SE Kansas “If I Were Mayor” contest. Agriculture teacher Chris Johnston, from Elk Valley USD 283 was recognized as Ag Teacher of the Year. Alina Boling of Eureka Jr/Sr High USD 389, was a winner in the KDHE “Keep It Clean Kansas” calendar contest.

I’ve been meeting people in my Senate office from all over the 14th district. Each visit brings a new need or concern. I enjoy reading the emails from my constituents as well. I believe the purpose of government is to govern with policies (and enforcement) that meets the needs of the people.

It is now getting near the time where I will have to decide and announce my intentions on running for this Senate position again. This requires some serious thought. It takes money, energy and time to campaign. I will be making my decision soon.

I was appointed to the Dyslexia Task Force this past summer. This group met several times and I chaired a sub-committee within this group. Our recommendations are complete and will be made public very soon. At the heart of the issue is identifying students with dyslexia characteristics and providing appropriate intervention. The entire report will be put on my website very soon. www.brucegivens.com

It has been a pleasure to serve you and if you have any questions, please contact me.

The hunting season for pheasant and quail has ended so my wife tells me I have to paint the laundry room – oh the demands on a Senator.

Check out YouTube to see the Kansas Senate at work.

I will not use state funds to send out a printed newsletter. Email newsletters and newspapers will be the only mass communication. You may also check my website. www.brucegivens.com