

Daily Leader staff report

A local citizens group met Thursday night to discuss the outcome of the election in Massachusetts and how Kansans can get involved in helping curb what they perceived to be an overreaching government.

The meeting took place at Ruffino's Restaurant at the Depot in downtown Liberal with a slightly smaller crowd due to the number of activities the same evening.

Local organizer Jim Rice chaired the meeting and discussed the activities that took place in Topeka earlier in the month in a hearing about the 10th Amendment, which limits the scope of the federal government to the powers listed in the Constitution and reserves all other power to the states and to the people.

"The room was packed," Rice said. "There had to be 200 in the hearing room and another 400 or 500 outside."

Rice said that supporters of the state adopting a resolution of support for the 10th amendment wore T-shirts with the 10th amendment printed on the back, and the large showing of support was indicative of the activities across the nation that want to see less government from Washington.

Rice also informed the group that one of the roles of the Independence Caucus, a growing grassroots movement in Kansas and across the U.S., was to vet candidates with a list of 80 questions focused on personal responsibility and Constitutional authority.

There were concerns about the information being provided to children in textbooks and discussion about creating industry by providing the raw materials needed to generate new

wealth.

On the local level, there was initial support for the proposed bond to improve Southwest Medical Center.

“I think it is needed,” Gary Warden said. “And the best part is they don’t want any money.”

Jack Carlile agreed.

“There were some people against the last upgrade, but it has more than paid for itself,” he said.

The group is planning to have a presentation on the bond proposal at the next meeting.