

A LETTER FROM FORMER CHAIRWOMAN JENNIFER CARNAHAN

State Central Delegates/Alternates,

Former Chairwoman Jennifer Carnahan sent me this email to distribute to state central prior to our Saturday meeting. I met Jennifer about a month ago and have gotten to know her. Since her name is on the agenda and I don't expect Hann will tell the truth, I thought it only right for her voice to be heard. Sharing of this letter is not an endorsement, but to allow her side to be shared.

Larry Doose



Dear Fellow Republicans,

I hope this email finds everyone in good spirits, and I extend my warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I'm reaching out because I've learned that my name is on the agenda for your upcoming state central meeting, and I felt it was only right to ensure at least a small piece of my voice is heard.

When you first elected me as Chairwoman in 2017, we made history together not just in Minnesota but across the country for Republicans. It was an immense honor when you re-elected me in 2019 with nearly 70% of the vote and again in 2021 for a historic third term with over 67% of the vote.

I believe your support for my chairmanship stemmed from the transparent culture we built together within our organization. Across all 87 counties, we functioned as a united team, prioritizing a strong BPOU and CD system and maintaining a 24-hour open-door policy. Most significantly, we achieved historic wins at both the state and federal levels - flipping three congressional seats from blue to red, holding our majority in the MN Senate and winning back five seats in the MN House. Let's not forget we successfully eliminated the \$1 million debt that had burdened the party for nearly a decade and we were consistently operating in the black!

I couldn't be prouder of what we accomplished together, and I'll always be grateful for my time working alongside a talented, committed, and dedicated team of thousands of activists across our party.

This brings me to the uncomfortable subject of discussing the lawsuit.

The lawsuit originated from a breach of contract, specifically related to my forced resignation by a group of individuals on the state executive board and their allies. This occurred in the context of a job I both loved and excelled at. To secure my separation pay, the board mandated that I sign a separation agreement, which included a mutual non-disparagement clause.

Make no mistake, those board members and their allies may conveniently forget the past and vigorously deny this, but these are the same individuals who forced me out and orchestrated a party takeover. In straightforward terms, since orchestrating my departure, their actions have been characterized by falsehoods, deceit, and manipulation.

As all of this unfolded, my husband's fight against cancer reached its darkest phase, culminating in his passing on February 17, 2022. Throughout this difficult period, my attorney and I pleaded with Chair Hann on numerous occasions to enforce the agreement and honor the non-disparagement clause. Despite giving the party more than a year to rectify the situation, Hann chose a different path.

My decision to pursue legal action was not driven by a desire for conflict or to harm the Republican Party of Minnesota. Instead, it was an appeal to halt the disparagement and false information circulating about me. Having ultimately lost my husband to cancer earlier in the year, all I sought was the space to grieve and reconstruct my broken heart and spirit.

I firmly believe the entire lawsuit could have been avoided if Hann and the party's attorney had honored the separation agreement when my attorney and I repeatedly approached them, urging compliance. We allowed them a full year to fulfill the terms before pursuing legal action.

Regrettably, Hann chose to escalate the situation, opting for a confrontational approach seemingly driven by a personal vendetta against me. Under Hann's guidance, the party embraced hostility instead of seeking resolution. Even after the lawsuit commenced, there were multiple points in time (much sooner than last month) where an amicable resolution, a mutual parting of ways, could have been reached, sparing both parties significant financial burdens.

Based on his actions, it is my belief that Hann had no interest in any agreement that did not let him personally walk away looking like the victor.

The counterclaims

The counterclaims filed against me by David Hann were nothing more than a smokescreen, serving as a means for him and some fellow board members to defame me under the guise of litigation privilege. Even during mediation, the mediator acknowledged this, not disagreeing when my attorney stated he believed the party would never succeed in court on their claims, deeming them reaching and very weak.

In mediation, Hann asserted that attorney and CD5 State Exec Rep Alec Beck claimed to have drafted the separation agreement with the mutual non-disparagement clause as a 'favor to me.' However, it is crucial to clarify that Alec and I never discussed the agreement before I signed it, and there were no exchanges of draft versions between us. I had no prior knowledge of his intentions. It's important to note that any party attorney that does work for the party is there to serve the party rather than any specific individual in the chair position.

As my attorney emphasized, if Alec thought he was doing me a favor, it wasn't a good one. This is evident because my attorney would not have allowed me to

sign the agreement without reviewing it first, given that every other clause in the agreement was detrimental to my interests.

My attorney aptly described Hann's counterclaims as primarily based on political puffery, exaggeration, and manipulation, coupled with dishonesty regarding the party bylaws and the vote for removal.

At our initial major hearing with the judge, the court swiftly dismissed all arguments made by the party's attorneys. The judge even questioned the validity of their claims, suggesting that if they were legitimate, I would still be the duly elected chair of the party. The party's attorneys appeared ill-prepared, especially when the judge issued an extensive order outlining the merits of my claims and refuting the party's assertions, ruling in my favor.

The order was unambiguous, systematically dismantling many of the arguments that Hann persists in clinging to, even to this day. And it's likely Hann and his allies will continue to adhere to these arguments at the state central meeting on Saturday.

Throughout the entire lawsuit, Hann consistently demonstrated a lack of awareness regarding the unfolding developments in the case. His persistent mischaracterization of events further highlights this disconnect, creating an almost surreal disparity between the legal reality and his perception of the situation.

Why I settled?

In truth, choosing a trial would have cast a damning light on the Republican Party, implicating numerous leaders, Hann included. Such a scenario would have painted the party in an unfavorable light. The trial date initially set for April 2024 would likely have been rescheduled, given that one of the party's attorneys, Harry Niska, serves in the state legislature. The earliest feasible trial date would have been in June, but a reschedule to August or September was more probable. This timing would have been detrimental to the party, especially just months before the general election in November.

Despite Hann's attempts to portray me negatively, the reality is that my primary desire has always been to be left alone. Hann and his allies forced me out; they achieved their goal—I am no longer the chair. Having lost my husband to cancer, my focus has been on moving forward with my life. It perplexes me why these individuals can't shift their focus to what truly matters—raising funds, recruiting strong candidates, developing a strategic get-out-the-vote strategy, investing in election integrity, and concentrating on winning elections.

Despite the continuous animosity directed my way, I've remained unwavering in my love for this party and its dedicated activists. Losing my husband made me realize that personal grievances aren't significant in life. What matters is dedicating oneself to passions, contributing to building something great, and surrounding oneself with individuals who strive to uplift rather than tear down. Life is too short.

I genuinely saw no upside in going to trial for anyone involved. While clearing my name was a potential outcome, I felt a responsibility as a well-liked, passionate, and hardworking former Chairwoman to continue prioritizing the party's best interests. Unlike Hann, I wasn't willing to let the party go up in flames to settle a personal score.

Through the mediation process with Hann, I recognized that someone had to be the adult and leader in the room. I firmly believe that one doesn't need the official title of chairwoman to act in the organization's best interests.

Let's talk about the legal fees

Chair Hann is asserting that this particular lawsuit cost the party six figures. The firm that represented the party in the claims is Cross Castle. As I've scrutinized every FEC report since the lawsuit's commencement, I am only finding \$25,007.50 in legal fees paid to Cross Castle, outlined below. While the party did use another law firm to answer the original complaint (Jacobson, Magnuson, Anderson & Halloran), I'm only finding \$3,318.00 in legal fees on the FEC report.

It may be possible the difference between Hann's assertions of six-figures and the \$25,007.50 + \$3,318.00 = \$28,325.50 as found on FEC reports may be attributed to state expenditures, which would then be a part of the state report expected to be public in early 2024. However, it is important to note that the both law firms cited above have done "other" work for the party, so unless actual monthly invoices with detailed legal services are shared, Hann can say whatever he wants about the amount of money spent, and nobody would be any the wiser until the party chooses to transparently share all of the detailed legal invoices associated directly with this case.

FEC Reports (Schedule B: Disbursements)

February, 2023: \$1,682.00

August, 2023: \$8,356.50

August, 2023: \$1,643.50

October, 2023: \$2,787.18

October, 2023: \$2,944.00

October, 2023: \$2,212.82

October, 2023: \$2,056.00

Total to Cross Castle: \$25,007.50*

It's crucial to underscore that any legal costs incurred by the party, even if genuinely reaching six figures, as a result of this lawsuit, can be directly attributed to Hann's decision not to amicably resolve matters from the outset. Allowing personal pride, ego, and emotions to take precedence, he obstructed rational decision-making for the organization he leads. Attempting to blame me now for his failures is just another smokescreen to hide the truth.

The party's financial challenges are entirely Hann's own making. There is no room for ambiguity on this matter.

*The party did report several of these amounts as loans (before making payments to Cross Castle), but I did not include the information from Schedule D: Loans & Obligations, since they ultimately paid Cross Castle and reported a \$0.00 balance owed to Cross Castle on the most recently filed FEC Report (date of filing: November 30, 2023).

*If the party does not show disbursements made to Cross Castle on the State Report (which will be made public in 2024), then Hann has not been honest about the actual lawsuit costs. If the party did receive heavily discounted legal fees for services, this could be an FEC violation, which if reported could result in an investigation of the Republican Party of Minnesota.

What's next?

While it seems Hann is eager to exploit the past legal dispute at state central as an opportunity for cheap shots and to continue tearing me down, I find solace in knowing the truth is on my side and I did the right thing on behalf of the party. As I won't be present to address any points brought up in real-time, I'm always just a phone call or text away if additional clarity is sought.

For those who follow me on social media, you'll know that over the past 18 months, I've navigated the grief process while also exploring the world (I visited my 63rd country in November) and finding my own inner peace. Both physically and mentally, I find myself in a much healthier place, and I'm immensely grateful for the support I've received from so many of you.

Even though I won't be physically present Saturday, I'm still cheering for everyone on Team GOP. I'm here to support all of you on state central, our candidates, causes, and the party. Don't hesitate to reach out—I'm just a phone call or email away.

Until our paths cross again, feel free to follow along on my world travels and grief journey on my Instagram - [thejennifercarnahan](#). [Click here to follow me!](#) And if you ever need travel tips, I've got you covered!

Best to you all!

Jennifer Carnahan

