

To whom it may concern:

I began my journey into the Libertarian Party in 2011 sitting in an Econ 101 class. The marketplace of politics was the lesson, and I was fascinated at a perspective I had never looked at before. I joined the party, and I followed the presidential race that year. Gary Johnson was the first Libertarian I supported. Before that I had split my votes between Democrats and Republicans. I joined this party 10 years ago. At that point it was sexy, a new way of looking at the world, and I thought I could make a difference. In some ways I have, and others I have not. I first ran for office in 2016 receiving about 5% of the vote. I then began my county party in 2017. Every step of the way I found myself in a leadership role, because I was willing to do the work. However, every time I looked at higher leadership I saw problems. As a result after the county I moved to the MTLP Treasurer position, then to the Chair after several resignations. Yes, this situation is not new, it is our culture of the "one true libertarian." I then became the Region 1 Alternate in 2019, and was elected as the Region 1 Representative last year.

My work for the party includes recruiting candidates for the 2018 and 2020 election cycles both of which I put my name on the ballot again. In 2020 many of the candidates I recruited got greater than 10 percent of the vote, some got close to 30 percent. I have been doing the work of the party, it was a labor of love which cost me advancement, financial stability, and is now affecting my family. My involvement is purely volunteer, I pay for my own travel and lodging, and must give my time to do the work of the party. I only make \$40k per year, after all. This is not the case for some members of this board, but I was willing to make these sacrifices because I knew that I could help. Because this was the party of principle, and reason would win the day.

Today reason has died, and our principles have died. Instead this is now a party of social media and influencers. It is a cult of personality. The members take orders from a shadow chair, and anything said against their narrative is forbidden and an assault on their virtue. Meanwhile they assail and threaten as a matter of course. They excuse bigotry, harassment, intimidation, and racism. They evade all questions, hold no respect, and get paid for it. This began some time ago, but is now an all-out conflict. Few on the LNC are free from sin, and I am certainly not. The following excerpt was emailed to me before anything had changed in the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire:

"We are coming en masse to turn the party of principle into a Party of Libertarian Principles. Your strategy failed to protect us from outright tyranny in any way, shape, or form. We are going to try a different strategy. If we are only able to generate 1% of the vote over the next few cycles then I suspect most of us will admit defeat and move on with our lives.

As a newcomer to activism (I am a retired economic researcher and consultant) I continue to be reminded of Daniel Patrick Moynihan's famous quip that faculty fights are so intense because the stakes are so low. This "fight" over control of the LPN is hilarious to me as there are no stakes whatsoever to fight over. What have you guys accomplished since Portland 2006? I can find no evidence of any policy or electoral success - please let me know what I have overlooked.

Looking forward to saying goodbye to you in Reno so we can begin an effort to try to restore at least some of our rights, I remain,

Bryan Elliott

Treasurer, The Libertarian Party of Nevada"

This was never about LPNH. That matter was clear in the minds of the LNC that the elected board was the rightful board. This was about doing exactly what happened in New Hampshire to the Mises Caucus; a purge. This was about removing the voices of reason so that the shadow chair could run the party. Mr. Elliot's email and the 3000+ that are nearly carbon copies of each other tell me that. This is about shouting the loudest and silencing the opposition. If you have read the LNC Business List you have seen the emails where I have tried to call for decorum. I was advised against it, because I was exposing a hard truth: the drama was part of the plan. For the past 6 months I have tried to work diplomatically and let Mrs. Harlos be "annoying". The problem with that, like any cycle of abuse, is that it just gets worse if you don't stand up to it.

This is where I found myself on Sunday when I returned from a short absence. A self-induced fever pitch where facts were subjectively skewed, and accusations were rampant. My only course of action was to try to bring order to the chaos. I failed in that attempt. Instead I was labeled to be on a witch hunt, harboring a vendetta, or part of the corruption. This became a lose-lose situation because I don't have the influencer base that Mrs. Harlos or Mr. Smith have, and they were virtually the only ones talking. The LNC business list became an extension of their social media, with rapid fire barbs and careful evasions.

Then there was the Mises Caucus emails. I will give the MC credit, they have a very active base, "suspicious even" to quote Mr. Heise. However, activists are only part of the equation. You also need candidates, leaders, staff, and donors. Twitter trolls don't do that. Email blasts don't do that. Regurgitated messages from people that only show up for a day (convention) don't do that. Knocking doors does that. Writing checks does that. Making calls does that. Sitting up till 3 AM pouring over research does that. I've done all of these things the past 10 years. The people that are new don't realize the work they are disregarding. Some have already left, many are on their way out. That is the state of the party, and that is what the actions of the Secretary have done to stoke the mob and deny proper order and business of the elected body.

Another email that I received is telling of that phenomenon:

"Mr. Wendt,

My name is Alan and am a Member in CO. I am largely responsible for the reason we had nearly 60 candidates on the ballot last year, and was recently given the Ptak Award last month for that reason. I had hoped to work with my Board to increase that number to 200, with a plan for getting that accomplished.

However, my board saw fit to pass a resolution calling for the removal of the National Chair before any trial had occurred. I also no longer believe they are serious about electoral success, and much of that is due to the toxic behavior of the Secretary.

I am not sure I can justify to any of my non-Libertarian friends why they should join a party that pushes out good people and rewards bad behavior instead. I have too many stories to tell about her toxic behavior here in CO to go into, I am available anytime if you would like to call me.

Thank you for being courageous enough to stand up to the bullies, because they will be coming for you. I really hope our party can learn its lesson."

I was focused on getting the business of the party done and getting libertarians elected, but every turn and every question became bogged down in procedure or shaming. Those were the hallmarks; you are

evil if you don't agree with the narrative. The point wasn't to get anything done, but to activate a base to have a rallying cry.

But I suppose everyone needs a villain. I became that villain because I dared to question the games and delays. If you have met me, you know that I am not social, but analytical. I saw the way that this was breaking, and knew I only had one option left, to try to save order by removing the intentional disruptions to the business of the Party. I had a choice, to keep my unpaid seat that cost me sleep, sanity, and even my livelihood or to be the person that held to principles even if my involvement in setting the world free would come to an end.

In my house there is a simple axiom that I try to live up to: family and livelihood before politics, always. I met my partner, Melody, when I recruited her to run for office last year. I built my life out of this party, and 4 weeks ago today my son, Albert, was born. However, my family and work took a back seat this past month. Tomorrow is Father's Day, and I will be spending it with my family. Everyone wanted their piece of me and until I sponsored the motion against the Secretary everyone was content with my performance. Once I broke ranks however, well, this is how we got to today.

Therefore I hereby resign from the following positions, effective immediately:

- LNC Region 1 Representative
- Bylaws and Convention Rules Committee
- Affiliate Support Committee
- Activism & Membership Chair's Advisory Committee (to include the chair)
- Policies & Procedures Chair's Advisory Committee
- Bylaws sustaining member of the Libertarian Party
- Montana Libertarian Party Judicial Committee (to include the chair)
- Member of the Montana Libertarian Party
- Secretary, Libertarian Party of Gallatin Valley, Montana
- Member of the Libertarian Party of Gallatin Valley, Montana

The Mises Caucus can have the LP if they want it, I have never been against them or any caucus. I suspect that the new members this past year will learn in short order that Rome wasn't built in a day. I am the third member of the LNC that was forced out by Caryn Ann Harlos this week, and there will be more. The only question is whose head the queen of hearts will take next. The irony is this is the exact same thing that Jarvis did in New Hampshire, but I guess we are in a "rules for thee, but not for me" type of situation here. I do caution those of you who remain that Rome didn't look so good after it burned either. Institutional knowledge is powerful, and some of you aren't done fighting yet. I wish you luck. However, you will need more than that because the Secretary is your memory, and she has a tendency to write the narrative in her most favorable light. Believe it if you want, but I simply can't stomach the deceit anymore. None of that is my concern now because for me this is "goodbye blue skies." It has been a great 10 years of growth, but now I must go. For those of you who are my friends it was an honor to have known you. For the rest, well, you do you.

Best Regards,

Francis Wendt