



# **MINUTES**

of the

## **2021 Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Division of USA Fencing**

Held on July 31, 2021, via Zoom on-line conferencing.

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NOTE: The topics discussed and actions taken during the Meeting are not necessarily reported in the same sequence in which they occurred during the Meeting. For presentation in these Minutes, multiple discussions of the same or similar topics that were discussed at different times throughout the Meeting have been consolidated under a single appropriate topic heading.

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# **MINUTES**

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## **2021 Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Division of USA Fencing**

The 2021 Annual Meeting (the “Meeting”) of the Tennessee Division (the “Division”) of USA Fencing (“USAF”) was held on Saturday, July 31, 2021, through an on-line connection with the Zoom video conferencing platform. Division Members from various locations in the State pre-registered themselves through the ZOOM system and attended the Meeting virtually. Division Chairman Robert Piraino hosted the Meeting.

### **A. NOTICES OF THE MEETING.**

1. July 16, 2021. The Division posted on its Facebook page the date and time for the Meeting and Officer Election. The post also linked to the Division's Website, which provided a link for Zoom Meeting Registration.
2. July 17, 2021. The Division and USAF sent a joint email Notice of the Meeting and Officer Election to all eligible voters. The email Notice provided a link for Zoom Meeting Registration and a link for submitting a Proxy Voting Form.
3. July 29, 2021. The Division and USAF sent Members a second joint email Notice, which provided an Agenda Preview for the Meeting and listed the names of four officer candidates, whom the Division was recommending for election.
4. July 29, 2021. The Division posted on its Facebook page a second Notice of the Meeting and Officer Election and again linked to the Division's Website. The Website provided a Zoom Meeting Registration link, listed the officer candidates again, and provided another link to the Agenda Preview.

Please see **Attachment Section A** to these Minutes (consisting of **Sub-Attachments A.1., A.2., A.3., and A.4.**) for paper facsimiles of the online Notices and electronic links referred to in this Section A.

### **B. CALL TO ORDER.**

At the request of Chairman Piraino, Secretary Ron Wilson confirmed that a quorum was present at the Meeting, either in person or by proxy. Chairman Piraino had noted that several more Members had pre-registered to attend the virtual Zoom Meeting than had logged in so far. But with a quorum present, he decided to go ahead and begin the Meeting with the expectation that some Members might log in late. Thus, Chairman Piraino called the Meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. CDT.

### **C. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND OVERVIEW OF SEVERAL AGENDA ITEMS.**

Chairman Piraino welcomed Members who had logged in to the virtual Meeting and thanked them for spending part of their Saturday evening participating in the business of the Division. He noted that the COVID Pandemic restrictions and locally mandated safety protocols have continued to hold the activities of the Division and some individual members of the Division, its clubs, and school and university fencing programs to a virtual standstill for over a year (since March 2020). Nevertheless, he wanted to discuss, or at least summarize briefly, some of the activities of the Division, despite the difficulties with COVID throughout the season.

#### **1. Comments on performance of USA Fencing.**

*a. **Overall performance for several national tournaments.*** Chairman Piraino was able to attend a couple of NAC (North American Cup) tournaments and the Summer Nationals held last month in Philadelphia. Despite the challenges imposed by the COVID Pandemic for almost a year and a half, he reported that he thought USAF performed admirably hosting these tournaments regarding their handling of COVID protocols, keeping events on-time, and operating the logistics of such large tournaments. USAF has experienced some glitches in starting back; e.g., delay in announcing the

timing for the Veterans Nationals being held later this month in Atlanta. But overall, Chairman Piraino believes that it appears USAF is seriously committed to bringing back competitive fencing at the national level as soon as they can.

**b. New National Bout Committee Member.** Chairman Piraino announced that Tennessee Division member Daniel Morrell has been selected as a member of the National Bout Committee. Congratulations to Daniel for his hard work and this accomplishment. His appointment sheds a good light on the Division and on the fencing program at UT Knoxville where he serves as head coach. We also are pleased that Coach Morrell brings his fencing expertise and knowledge directly to the Division by serving as one of its officers.

## **2. Current status of the Division's clubs and school/university fencing programs.**

Chairman Piraino explained that his primary source of accurate information about the operating status of the Division's clubs and other fencing programs is to monitor the online list of clubs and programs that renew or maintain their currently active registrations with USAF. Those current registrations and renewals dropped off in 2020-21 and are still down for the 2021-22 season. But as fencing activity picks up early in the season, and more sanctioned tournaments are held, he expects club and school program registrations with USAF will also increase. Based on registration renewals and other sources of information about the various Division clubs and other programs, Chairman Piraino briefly summarized for the Meeting what he knew about the status of the programs listed below. He also requested that any Members attending the virtual Meeting share what information they might have about the clubs or school programs they were associated with.

**a. Baylor School (Chattanooga).** Coach Michael Vines preregistered for the Meeting, but was unable to attend. However, based on his leadership reputation and some Internet information, Chairman Piraino was aware that this highly successful high school (and lower grade levels) fencing program in east Tennessee was able to return to on-campus training during the last several months. He expects that when Tennessee qualifying tournaments are made available during 2021-22, as in past years, Baylor will compete in some of these Tennessee Division tournaments. He also expects that Baylor will continue participating in the *On Guard High School Fencing League* in the Georgia Division, to the extent the Georgia Division is able to return to their pre-COVID fencing activities. Of course, as Coach Vines pointed out to the Division Meeting last year, the ultimate decision as to when and to what extent Baylor's highly successful fencing team returns to pre-COVID activity, both in Tennessee and Georgia, will be made by the school's administrators, when they determine that it is safe for their student-fencer athletes to return to competition.

**b. Cumberland d' Escrime (CDE) (Nashville).** Because of lack of the funding from Nashville Metro School System and other sources, Nashville Community Education (NCE) has shut down its entire operations indefinitely. Thus, the long-standing introductory fencing program conducted through NCE at Cohn Adult School has also shut down. However, Donovan Grimwood, CDE's President and head coach for the Cohn program, has renewed CDE's USAF membership and thereby has obtained insurance coverage for his fencers through USAF. Coach Grimwood is now working on resuming CDE's popular introductory fencing program at Cohn School (as well as maintaining a small core of experienced fencers for weekly bouting) by possibly renting Cohn's gymnasium space and access time on CDE's own and no longer through NCE. For many years, the introductory fencing program at Cohn School by CDE has promoted the sport of fencing and offered introductory training to Nashvillians at a modest cost. The Division lauds Mr. Grimwood for his extraordinary efforts to keep the CDE-managed program alive at Cohn.

**c. Lang Fencing Academy (Spring Hill).** Chairman Piraino recognized and congratulated former Olympian Marty Lang, because he has recently registered and opened a new fencing club in the Nashville area, *Lang Fencing Academy*. Coach Lang was present at the virtual Meeting and at first, he had no status updates on his new club to share with Members. However, later in the Meeting, when Division tournament scheduling was discussed, Coach Lang informed Members that he intends for his new Club to hold two Division-sanctioned tournaments during the coming season. (See **Section C.3.(ii)** below in these Minutes.) He also expressed an interest in holding a regional tournament during the season. (See **Section C.3.(iii)** below in these Minutes.)

**d. Lighthouse Christian School (Antioch).** This relatively new high school program was just starting to gain momentum when the COVID Pandemic shut down virtually all Division fencing activity in 2020. They were disappointed that there was very little competitive high school fencing activity scheduled in the Nashville area during 2020-21. They did, however, hold an in-house high school tournament themselves this past spring. Despite that the event was not a Division-sanctioned tournament, Chairman Piraino reported there was good and enthusiastic participation in the tournament.

**e. Memphis University School (MUS) (Memphis).** This usually very active and successful high school fencing program in Memphis totally shut down in 2020. Their USAF membership renewal is pending. The head coach, Sergey Petrosyan, communicated to Chairman Piraino in 2020 that the shutdown was indefinite. He also said that the school's administrators were taking the COVID Pandemic very seriously and that they would diligently protect the health of the school's students. Coach Petrosyan was not at the Meeting, but Chairman Piraino had recently reached out to him to determine the status of MUS fencing, but had not heard back yet. When he does hear from MUS, Chairman Piraino hopes it will be good news that they are planning to restart their program during 2021-22.

**f. Middle Tennessee Fencing Club (Franklin).** No updated status information on this club.

**g. Murfreesboro Fencing Club (Smyrna) and Williamson County Fencing Club (Nolensville).** These two clubs have common management and they have notified the Division and put in a bid with USAF to hold a regional tournament during 2021-22: an RYC (Regional Youth Circuit) and perhaps also an RJCC (Regional Juniors and Cadets Circuit). Chairman Piraino has not heard from USAF whether the bid has been accepted yet. Daniel Morrell, who was attending the Meeting, said they had contacted him about running the bout committee for such a tournament, but they had not yet gotten back to him to confirm the request.

**h. Music City Fencing Club (Nashville).** Chairman Piraino pointed out that for a couple of years before the COVID Pandemic, his Music City Fencing Club had hosted a couple of regional tournaments, but this coming season he does not expect to bid for a regional tournament. In addition to rising cost considerations for putting on a large tournament like a regional, he wants to use this season to regroup his club and focus on fencing basics with the growth of the new young fencers who have joined his club in recent months. His Music City Club will continue holding in-club tournaments; will likely host several local Division-sanctioned tournaments; and expects to participate in other Division, regional, and national tournaments.

**i. Raptors Fencing Club (Memphis).** Chairman Piraino has not heard anything about this smaller sister club to MUS in Memphis. Because this club is also managed and coached by Sergey Petrosyan, head coach of MUS fencing, Chairman Piraino assumes it is following the same protocols and procedures that MUS is following with respect to reopening during 2021-22.

**j. Sewanee Fencing Society (Sewanee).** This club is associated with Sewanee - University of the South, located in eastern Tennessee. For the last several years, it has not been a very active participant at the Division competitive level, but it has renewed its USAF membership for the 2021-22 season.

**k. University of Tennessee at Knoxville Fencing Club (Knoxville).** Chairman Piraino asked UT's head coach, Daniel Morrell to summarize for Members the status of the UT(Knox)Club. Coach Morrell expressed mild surprise that the Club's membership remained relatively strong and active during the 2020-21 school year. They were able to train three days per week with each training day being dedicated to a different weapon. By limiting each practice day to one specific weapon, they were able to comply with the University's group-limit protocols that applied to all campus clubs and organizations. The UT Club was not able to host any tournaments during the 2020-21 season. (They typically host two well-attended and successful tournaments each year.) In addition, Coach Merrill believes that during the entire 2020-21 season, no UT fencer traveled to any outside tournaments, at least not as a member of the UT Club. Coach Morrell said he was meeting with University officials in early August to determine the scope of fencing activity on campus and whether traveling to tournaments off campus will be allowed during 2021-22. He is optimistic that the UT Club will return as close as

possible to business as usual, including hosting a major tournament in the winter of 2021 and another major one in the spring of 2022.

**l. Middle Tennessee State University Fencing Club (Murfreesboro).** Chairman Piraino noted that there were no other names listed on USAF's currently registered Tennessee clubs and programs. Stuart Bernstein, faculty advisor, club administrator, and active participant in the MTSU Fencing Club spoke up with an update of the status of the Club. In essence, Mr. Bernstein explained that he is challenged with rebuilding the MTSU Club almost from zero. During the 2020-21 school year the Club was unable to meet at all. The University's administration cautiously shut down all student sports clubs, imposing strict protocols, such as mandating that club participants remain separated 9 feet between each other. Mr. Bernstein also noted that many of his most active Club fencers have graduated. Nevertheless, he expressed that the MTSU Club would get through its rebuilding and return for the 2021-22 season. He said realistically they would not host any tournaments during the fall (2021), but in the spring (2022) he hopes to host a Rating D and under tournament, and also maybe a Novice tournament.

**m. The Blade Fencing Club (Knoxville) and Smoky Mountain Fencing Club (Knoxville).** Neither of these clubs is currently registered with USAF and neither has been active with the Division for several years, even before the COVID Pandemic shutdown. However, Chairman Piraino has made contact with a potential coach for one club and he is aware that a handful of fencers from the other club still meets and tries to remain active with their fencing. If Chairman Piraino finds an opportunity to help either of these two Knoxville area clubs reestablish their activity, he will pursue it.

**n. Tennessee Tech University (Cookeville).** Tennessee Tech had a USAF-registered fencing club several years ago, but it has not been active for quite a while. However, Chairman Piraino is aware that recently an informal interest has been expressed to try to possibly reactivate the Club. Again, if an opportunity arises to help reactivate a fencing club at Tennessee Tech, Chairman Piraino will pursue it.

### **3. Scheduling Division-sanctioned and regional tournaments for 2021-22.**

Chairman Piraino confirmed with Secretary Wilson (who tracks the Division's sanctioning fee system for all Division level sanctioned tournaments) that during the 2020-21 season, there were no Tennessee Division-sanctioned tournaments held in the State; and there was only one Division qualifying tournament, held on May 23, 2021 (Divisions 2 & 3, and Junior Olympic Qualifiers). In response to several questions from Coach Lang, Chairman Piraino provided the following information related to scheduling tournaments:

**(i) Notice period for Division qualifying tournaments.** The notice period to Division clubs, coaches, fencers, and parents for the Division's qualifying tournament held on June May 23, 2021 was shorter than usual as the result of several unavoidable delay factors. First, because of the impact of COVID and other considerations, USAF was later than usual in updating its qualification paths, which delayed all divisions, not just Tennessee, in setting the dates for their qualifying tournament(s). With the shortened and late timeframe, it became a scheduling issue to juggle school final exam dates; the dates of school graduations and related activities; and a shortened time window to find referees and other qualified people available to run the tournaments -- all resulting in only a handful of weekends available to hold a Division qualifying tournament. Chairman Piraino consulted with USAF about these scheduling issues. USAF was sympathetic and said that a number of divisions had expressed many of the same difficulties, so divisions were expected to just do the best they could to schedule their qualifying tournaments, including giving notice as timely as possible, given the circumstances. Chairman Piraino assured Members that during the 2021-22 season (and future seasons), the Division would return to the normal one-month notice period for Division qualifying tournaments, unless in the highly unlikely event (yet still possible) that a circumstance similar to the scheduling collapse we experienced during the 2020-21 season were to occur.

**(ii) Scheduling a Division-sanctioned tournament.** As of the date of the Meeting, no Tennessee club or school program had requested (and therefore not scheduled) a Division-sanctioned tournament. The procedures for

requesting and scheduling Division- sanctioned tournaments can be found on the Division website ([tennesseefencing.org](http://tennesseefencing.org)), under *DIVISION RESOURCES*, then *TOURNAMENTS*.

*(Coach Lang advised Members that he intends for his club to hold two Division-sanctioned tournaments during the 2021-22 season. Dates and locations to be determined.)*

**(iii) Bids to host a regional tournament.** Bids to host a regional tournament must be made through USAF. The approval of such bids comes from USAF, not the Division.

*(Coach Lang further advised Members that he has put in a bid with USAF to host a three-weapon regional tournament this season, probably in the Nashville area and probably late fall or in 2022. At Coach Lang's request, Chairman Piraino offered to help with the tournament, and several other Members present at the Meeting offered generally that they might be able to help, subject to USAF approval, specific dates of the tournaments, and other details to be determined, as well as what their personal schedules and time commitments might be on the dates of the tournaments.)*

#### **4. Status of Division-owned equipment.**

Chairman Piraino summarized the Division's policy on the use of its equipment by clubs and school programs. Generally, a modest fee (\$10 per strip) is charged for use to put on a weekend tournament. For longer term use (but never permanently) there may be no charge for a reasonable amount of temporary time, typically for school programs, startups, and small clubs that don't yet have the financial resources to purchase their own equipment. Availability of the equipment is always subject to the volume of the demands that clubs and schools may make for its use. For a list of the limited amount of equipment owned by the Division and details about the Division's current lending policies, please go to the Division's website ([tennesseefencing.org](http://tennesseefencing.org)) under *DIVISION RESOURCES*, then *EQUIPMENT*.

#### **5. Members' ideas to help grow Division membership, number of tournaments, and fencer participation in tournaments.**

As Chairman Piraino has done for several years, he asked Members at the Meeting to offer any ideas, comments, or suggestions on how to grow the Division, including both club and individual memberships, as well as participation in all levels of tournaments offered across the State. He pointed out that even before the COVID pandemic, with a couple of exceptions, all of these Division numbers appear to have been dropping off each year. He emphasized that while the large regional and national tournaments are highly visible and important, the club-hosted smaller sanctioned tournaments play an important role in keeping the Division strong and active. There are many younger and/or less experienced fencers who are not ready to fence at a regional tournament, and other fencers who do not have access to lengthy transportation and overnight accommodations, all of whom would benefit from an increased number of smaller tournaments held closer to their homes.

**(i) Identifying Qualified Referees.** Member Bernstein observed that a key factor for encouraging more tournaments, especially the small, local Division-sanction tournaments, is for the tournament organizers to have access to a pool of the names of qualified referees. Chairman Piraino advised Members that USAF maintains a data base of rated referees on their website, searchable by division, and the name and rating of each qualified referee. He used the virtual screen capability of the Zoom platform to log into the Tennessee portion of USAF's data base to demonstrate to Members how to access the information. However, he cautioned that currently USAF does not have enough resources to update the referee data base very frequently. Thus, it often is out of date, because a particular referee may no longer be active; or may have moved out of the division; or his or her ratings may no longer be accurate; or he or she may not have Safe Sport certification or background check, etc. Nevertheless, the USAF data base is a good starting point, but potential tournament organizers must do their own due diligence and over time develop their own list of local qualified referees, who are still available.

**(ii) Tracking Tennessee Division membership numbers and Division tournament participation.** Member Lang asked if there were an accurate data source that permits the Division to track its number of members. Again, Chairman Piraino logged onto the USAF website and displayed on the Zoom screen a list of the names of the current members of the Tennessee Division. In terms of the raw data, the USAF's information is accurate, but since USAF memberships remain on USAF's list until they automatically expire on July 31 each year, you do not know at any given point in time whether the listed fencer is still actively participating in training, tournaments, or other fencing activities. Also, many of the names on the USAF list are not competitive fencers, but are coaches, administrators, or parents with supporting (now referred to as Access) memberships. There is no data base that tracks the aggregate number of Division members who actively participate in tournaments over the course of a season.

Consequently, Chairman Piraino has concluded that he is not aware of a reliable method, based on precisely gathered and relevant tracking data, to objectively monitor the Division's membership growth, especially if you want to monitor only active fencers. To estimate such growth, he relies on his observation of his own club and his informal communications with other managers and head coaches of the larger clubs in the Division. Based on what he sees in his club and learns from other clubs, he roughly calculates a gross estimation of the number of actively participating members in the Division at any point in time. Chairman Piraino has spoken with USAF staff about this lack of clarity on how to more precisely track the number of active memberships in the divisions. They are sympathetic to the issue and in the future hope to expand the clarity of the details accessible through their membership database, not only for individual divisions tracking their growth, but also for USAF's own internal purposes.

As for tournament participation, Chairman Piraino could manually calculate the number of Division members, who fence in each Division-sanctioned tournament his club hosts, but he can only make a generalized estimate of the approximate number of Division members participating in Division-sanctioned tournaments over the course of an entire season.

## **D. OLD (AND CONTINUING) BUSINESS.**

### **1. Division support for developing high school fencing programs.**

Despite the challenges of the COVID Pandemic during the 2020-21 season, Chairman Piraino wanted to update Members on the status of the Division helping high schools (public and private) start or expand fencing programs in their schools. For several years, Chairman Piraino has consistently focused on this topic, but over all he has been disappointed by the general lack of interest shown by most of the schools he has talked to.

Initially, some school coaches or administrators may express a personal interest in starting a student fencing club or program at their school, but only one high school (Lighthouse Christian School in the Nashville area) has actually followed through and created a program. Unfortunately, the Williams County School District, located just south of Nashville, has discontinued their Junior ROTC program in their high schools, which had maintained active fencing training and competition as part of that program. It is unclear yet whether there is enough interest in fencing in the Williamson County schools to continue some level of fencing in non-ROTC related school clubs.

Chairman Piraino explained that the geographical scope of his high school recruiting efforts on behalf of the Division has been limited to schools in relatively close-by areas that are in within driving distance in and around Nashville. For giving fencing demonstrations and transporting weapons and temporary use of uniforms to interested high schools, Chairman Piraino has used the resources of his own club (including time and staff). The Division itself lacks such staff and other resources to recruit high schools. But Chairman Piraino has learned that the biggest drawback to starting new high school fencing programs has simply been lack of enthusiastic interest. Nevertheless, on behalf of expanding Division membership (active clubs and fencers), Chairman Piraino will continue speaking with area high schools every chance he gets.

## E. TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORTS.

**1. 2020-2021 Financial Statement.** A copy of the Division's one-page 2020-21 Financial Statement was presented to Members virtually on the Zoom screen. Members could read on their home screens as Treasurer Ron Wilson discussed specific entries on the Financial Statement. (*Please see Attachment Section E* to these Minutes for a copy of the Preliminary 2020-21 Financial Statement that Treasurer Wilson discussed briefly with Members during the Meeting.)

While the ZOOM technology is great for enabling viewers to read a document virtually as it is discussed by a presenter, the content of the Division's 2020-21 Financial Statement was not so great. During 2020-21 the Division received revenue from only three sources, totaling \$617 for the entire season (about 10% of last season's revenues). But luckily, along with such paltry revenue, the Division's expenses incurred during the season were also extraordinarily low, \$429 for the entire season (about 15% of last year's expenditures). Treasurer Wilson confirmed Chairman Piraino's memory that during last season there were no sanctioned tournaments held in Tennessee (thus, no Division revenue from sanctioning fees; and only one qualifying tournament was hosted by the Division, in late May (thus, Division revenue from tournament entry fees was extremely limited).

Despite the Division's dismal financial performance for the 2020-21 Season, at the end of season, our books at least showed a net positive gain for the year of about \$187. Thus, at the end of the financially forgettable 2020-21 season, the Division had a \$6,795 bank balance with which to start the new season.

**2. Budget Guidelines for the 2021-22 Season.** Treasurer Wilson did not prepare estimated Budget Guidelines for the coming 2021-22 season, just as he had not done for the 2020 Annual Meeting before the 2020-21 Season. Because of the past and continuing impact of the COVID-19 shutdown (starting in March 2020), the overall prospects for restarting Division-sanctioned tournaments and other revenue-generating activities (virtually all of which are related to tournament activity) remain highly uncertain are not reasonably predictable. We remain optimistic that competitive fencing activity in Tennessee, and significant fencer participation in those activities, will begin to grow as the 2021-22 season gets underway. When the Division is able to return to a reasonably normal level of competitive fencing activities, as always, we will closely monitor the expenses generated by that activity and ensure that incoming early revenues will be sufficient to offset any early surge in the Division's expenses.

## F. VOTING ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE MEETING.

**1. General Actions.** Other than the election of 2021-22 Officers, there were no new policies or policy changes proposed, funding requests made, or any other matter proposed at the Meeting that required a vote by the Division Members.

**2. Election of 2021-22 Officers.** Chairman Piraino read the list of the names of the four Division Members, who, prior to the Meeting, had expressed their desire to stand for election or re-election, and who the outgoing Division officers recommended that Members vote for them to fill the office indicated next to their names below:

<u>Chairman:</u>	<u>Robert Piraino</u> , re-election. ( <i>Music City Fencing Club</i> ) [note, subsequently suspended]
<u>1st Vice Chair:</u>	<u>Daniel Morrell</u> , re-election. ( <i>University of Tennessee- Knoxville Fencing Club</i> )
<u>2nd Vice Chair:</u>	<u>Stuart Bernstein</u> , new election. ( <i>Middle Tennessee State University Fencing Club</i> and <i>Music City Fencing Club</i> )
<u>Secretary/Treasurer:</u>	<u>Ron Wilson</u> , re-election. ( <i>Cumberland d'Esprime and Music City Fencing Club</i> )

Secretary Wilson motioned that the four nominees be nominated together as a group for the officer positions written next to their names above. Member Bernstein seconded that motion and there was no objection from Members.

Chairman Piraino asked if there were any other nomination from the floor, from any Member present at the



Meeting, for any of the offices up to be filled. There were none. Because three of the nominated candidates were standing for re-election and one candidate had formerly served in the same position three years ago, most of the Members at the Meeting were familiar with each candidate, either personally or by his reputation. There was no further discussion regarding these four nominated candidates.

Because each nominee was unopposed for the position he sought, Secretary Wilson explained that under Under Article VII, Section 2 of the Division's Bylaws, he was obligated to dispense with having a general vote count from the floor, but instead, he must cast a unanimous ballot FOR each of the unopposed nominees. Secretary Wilson did this for all four of the unopposed candidates as a group. Thus, the duly elected Tennessee Division officers for the 2021-22 Season are specified in the list presented above.

Stuart Bernstein, the Division's newly elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, has been involved with the Middle Tennessee State University Fencing Club for many years. He has been credited as one of the key contributors to maintaining and developing MTSU's Club. He is (i) MTSU's Faculty Advisor to the Fencing Club; (ii) a hands-on administrator for the Club; and (iii) when time allows, he trains as an epeeist and fences competitively as much as he can. In addition, Mr. Bernstein served previously as one of the Division's Vice-Chairs during the 2018-19 season. (Please see **Attachment Section F** for more information regarding Mr. Bernstein's qualifications to serve as an officer of the Division.)

In accordance with ARTICLE IV of the Bylaws, these officers will serve through the Division's next annual Meeting in 2022; or until their resignation; or until otherwise removed from their position in accordance with ARTICLE IV, SECTIONS 6 or 7 of the Bylaws.

**G. ADJOURNMENT.** With no further old or new business considered for discussion, and no requests from Members to speak to the Meeting, Chairman Piraino asked for a motion to adjourn. Secretary Wilson moved to adjourn, which motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Morrell. The motion was unanimously accepted by the Members with no objection. Chairman Piraino adjourned the Meeting at 8:16 p.m. CDT.

**H. ATTACHMENTS TO THESE MINUTES.** Copies of these Attachments are available upon request to the Division's Secretary. Please email requests to [tennesseefencing@gmail.com](mailto:tennesseefencing@gmail.com). The Attachments are identified below by the letter of the Section of these Minutes in which they are referenced.

**Sec. A 2021 Annual Meeting Notices.**

A.1. (July 16) Facebook Notice post linking to Division website, with link to Zoom Registration Form.

A.2. (July 17) Joint Email Notice with USAF.

(i) Zoom Meeting Registration Form.

(ii) Proxy Voting Form.

A.3. (July 29) Joint Email Notice with USAF, providing Agenda Preview and Officer Candidates.

A.4. (July 29) Facebook Notice post providing Officer Candidates and linking to Division Website with links to Zoom Registration Form and the Agenda Preview.

**Sec. E Preliminary Financial Statement.** For the 2020-21 Season, which was summarized at the Meeting.

**Sec. F Biographical for Stuart Bernstein.** Newly elected Vice-Chairperson

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Respectfully submitted,

*Ronald F. Wilson*

Ronald F. Wilson  
Secretary and Treasurer  
Tennessee Division of USA Fencing  
August 5, 2021