



Memo from the President, Andy Bolt and Board of Directors of Tennessee State Soccer Association to the Membership

Two Significant Events for Soccer in Tennessee

There are times when the President and Board of Directors would like to send out an memo to the membership about great things happening in soccer in Tennessee. This is one of those times. We recently witnessed **two "firsts" for Tennessee State Soccer Association and soccer in Tennessee.**

The last week of July saw US Youth Soccer host the National Championships in Charlotte, NC. US Youth Soccer is the largest youth sports organization in the United States, at three million players. The last time a team from Tennessee competed in the National Championships was 1995 when Cindy Parlow represented a team from Memphis. This year, for the **first time in the history of US Youth Soccer there were two teams from Tennessee** competing. The teams, TNFC Azzurri U14 Girls and Brentwood Premier U18 Girls, are great competitors with a rich tradition of success and development. Only one team from each of the four regions qualify, so just getting there is an outstanding accomplishment. Over the last ten years attending the regional championships, I have seen some very talented Tennessee teams compete. Two have actually made the finals at Regionals, none were able to win and advance. These teams accomplished far more than just competing, as they both made the finals and were National Finalists. This is a **first in TN Soccer** history and indicative of the direction soccer is headed in Tennessee.

During this same week, US Youth Soccer held their Annual General Membership Meeting in Charlotte. The AGM is always in conjunction with the National Championships. This year, for the first time, US Youth Soccer added two new board positions to their Board of Directors. These two positions are Independent Directors. US Youth Soccer was looking for directors that had significant business success, had helped build a great business model, and who are creative and innovative people. Any soccer acumen would be a plus but not necessary. TSSA nominated Shawn Morris. Shawn went through an extensive interview process and he was unanimously elected by the membership. Shawn is President of Development and Innovation at Healthspring. US Youth Soccer and TSSA believe Shawn and the other Independent director will have a significant and important impact on the future of US Youth Soccer at an important time in their history. He is the **first Tennessean** to serve on the Board of Directors for US Youth Soccer. Shawn and his wife Tina are residents of Hendersonville and have three children that have played soccer.

TSSA would like to congratulate both teams for their outstanding performances and Shawn Morris, for his election to the Board of Directors of US Youth Soccer!

Warmest Regards,

Andy