

ULTRALIFE CORPORATION 2000 Technology Parkway Newark, New York 14513

May 31, 2022

#### **To Our Stockholders:**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Ultralife Corporation (the "Company") you are cordially invited to attend the 2022 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. Eastern Time at The Westin Detroit Metropolitan Airport located at 2501 Worldgateway Place, Detroit, MI 48242. As always, we encourage you to vote your shares prior to the Annual Meeting.

This year, we are again providing our proxy materials on the Internet. Accordingly, we are mailing to many of our stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice") instead of a paper copy of our Proxy Statement and our 2021 Annual Report to Stockholders. The Notice contains instructions about how to access those documents and vote online. The Notice also contains instructions about how each of our stockholders can also receive a paper copy of our proxy materials, including the Proxy Statement, our 2021 Annual Report to Stockholders and a form of proxy card or voting instruction card. By taking advantage of the Securities and Exchange Commission Rules permitting this distribution process, the Company will not only reduce the environmental impact of the Annual Meeting, but also reduce our costs of printing and distributing proxy materials.

Your continued interest in the Company is greatly appreciated. We look forward to a productive Annual Meeting.

Very truly yours,

Much D. Pour

Michael D. Popielec, President and Chief Executive Officer

# ULTRALIFE CORPORATION

2000 Technology Parkway Newark, New York 14513

#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

#### JULY 20, 2022

Notice is hereby given that the 2021 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Ultralife Corporation will be held on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. Eastern Time at The Westin Detroit Metropolitan Airport located at 2501 Worldgateway Place, Detroit, MI 48242 for the purposes which follow below.

- 1. To elect five directors for a term of one year and until their successors are duly elected and qualified;
- 2. To ratify the selection of Freed Maxick CPAs, P.C. as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022; and
- 3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting and any adjournments thereof.

Only holders of record of our common stock, par value \$.10 per share, at the close of business on May 24, 2022 are entitled to receive notice of, and to vote at and attend our Annual Meeting. Your vote is important. Whether or not you plan to attend our Annual Meeting, we hope that you will vote as soon as possible. If you received only a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice") by mail, you may vote your shares at the Internet site address listed on your Notice. You may also request a paper copy of our proxy materials by visiting the Internet site address listed on the Notice, by calling the toll-free number or by sending an e-mail to the e-mail address listed on the Notice. If you received a paper copy of the proxy materials by mail, you may vote your shares by proxy by doing any one of the following: vote at the Internet site address listed on your proxy or voting instruction card; or sign, date and return the enclosed proxy or voting instruction card in the pre-addressed envelope provided.

#### By Order of the Board of Directors

Bradford T. Whitmore, Chair of the Board of Directors

Dated: May 31, 2022

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In this Proxy Statement, the terms "Ultralife," "Company," "we," and "our" refer to Ultralife Corporation. This Proxy Statement includes website addresses and references to additional materials found on those websites. These websites and materials are not incorporated into the Proxy Statement by reference.

This document includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, including statements regarding our environmental and social goals, commitments and strategies. These statements involve risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially from any future results expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements for a variety of reasons, including due to the risks and uncertainties that are discussed in our most recently filed periodic reports on Form 10-K and Form 10-Q and subsequent filings. We assume no obligations to update any forward-looking statements or information, which speak as of their respective dates.

These materials were first sent or made available to stockholders on May 31, 2022.

# **IMPORTANT**

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO VOTE IN ANY OF THE MANNERS DESCRIBED IN THIS PROXY STATEMENT. WE ALSO ENCOURAGE BENEFICIAL OWNERS TO FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BY THEIR BROKER REGARDING HOW TO VOTE. YOUR BROKER CANNOT VOTE YOUR SHARES FOR DIRECTOR NOMINEES UNLESS YOU PROVIDE YOUR BROKER WITH VOTING INSTRUCTIONS. SEE "BROKER VOTING" BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION.

#### **ULTRALIFE CORPORATION**

2000 Technology Parkway Newark, New York 14513 (315) 332-7100

#### PROXY STATEMENT

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

# TO BE HELD ON JULY 20, 2022

#### INFORMATION CONCERNING SOLICITATION AND VOTING

We are furnishing this proxy statement to our stockholders in connection with our Board of Directors' solicitation of proxies for use at our 2022 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which we refer to in this proxy statement as the Meeting, to be held on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. Eastern Time and at any adjournments or postponements thereof. The Meeting will be held at The Westin Detroit Metropolitan Airport located at 2501 Worldgateway Place, Detroit, MI 48242. As always, we encourage you to vote your shares prior to the Meeting.

In accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), instead of mailing a printed copy of our proxy materials to each stockholder of record, we are now furnishing proxy materials to our stockholders on the Internet. If you received only a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice") by mail, you will not receive a printed copy of the proxy materials unless you request a copy. Instead, the Notice will instruct you how to access and review the proxy materials on the Internet. The Notice will also instruct you as to how you may submit your proxy or voting instruction card over the Internet. If you received only a Notice by mail and would like to receive a printed copy of our proxy materials, please follow the instructions for requesting those materials included in the Notice. Generally stockholders will not receive printed copies of the proxy materials unless they request them. **The Notice only identifies the items to be voted on at the Meeting. The Notice explains how to cast your vote.** 

The Notice was first being sent to our stockholders on or about May 31, 2022 and our proxy materials were first being made available to our stockholders on or about May 31, 2022.

You may vote by proxy or in person at the Meeting. If you received only the Notice by mail, you may vote your shares online by proxy at the Internet site address listed on your Notice of Internet Availability. You may also request a paper copy of our proxy materials by (i) visiting the Internet site address, (ii) calling the toll-free number or (iii) by sending an email to the email address listed on the Notice. If you received a paper copy of the proxy materials by mail, you may vote your shares by proxy by doing any one of the following: vote at the Internet site address listed on your proxy or voting instruction card; call the toll-free number listed on your proxy or voting instruction card; or mail your signed and dated proxy or voting instruction card to our tabulator in the self-addressed envelope provided. If you vote via the internet or by telephone, do not return your proxy card. Even if you plan to attend the Meeting in person, we recommend that you vote by proxy prior to the Meeting. You can always change your vote as described below.

When a proxy card is returned properly signed and dated, the shares represented thereby will be voted in accordance with the stockholder's directions. If the proxy is signed, dated and returned without choices having been specified

(except in the case of broker non-votes), the shares will be voted **FOR** the election of each director-nominee named therein.

You may receive more than one Notice or more than one paper copy of the proxy materials, including multiple paper copies of this proxy statement and multiple proxy or voting instruction cards, depending on how you hold your shares. For example, if you hold your shares in more than one brokerage account, you may receive a separate Notice, a separate e-mail or a separate voting instruction card for each brokerage account in which you hold your shares. If you are a stockholder of record and your shares are registered in more than one name, you may receive more than one Notice, more than one e-mail or more than one proxy card. To vote all of your shares by proxy, you must (i) vote at the Internet site address listed on the Notice, proxy or voting instruction card, (ii) call the toll-free number listed on your proxy or voting instruction card, or (iii) sign, date and return each proxy card and voting instruction card that you receive. **If you vote via the internet or telephone do not also sign, date and return your proxy card.** 

If for any reason any of the nominees for election as directors become unavailable for election, the holders of the proxies will exercise discretionary authority to vote for substitute nominees proposed by our Board of Directors. A stockholder has the right to revoke a previously granted proxy at any time before it is voted by filing with our Corporate Secretary a written notice of revocation, or a duly executed later-dated proxy, or by requesting return of the proxy and voting in person at the Meeting.

We will bear the cost of soliciting proxies. In addition to the solicitation of proxies by use of the mail, some of our officers, directors and regular employees, without extra remuneration, may solicit proxies personally or by telephone, email or similar communication. However, such officers, directors and regular employees may be reimbursed for their out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the solicitation. We have not engaged a proxy solicitation firm, but we may decide to retain the services of a proxy solicitation firm in the future if we believe it is appropriate under the circumstances. In those situations where the beneficial owner of shares is not the record holder, we will reimburse record holders for reasonable expenses in forwarding proxies and proxy soliciting material to the beneficial owners of the shares.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on May 24, 2022 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Meeting. As of May 24, 2022, there were 16,127,082 shares of our common stock, par value \$.10 per share, issued and outstanding, each entitled to one vote per share at the Meeting.

#### Quorum

A majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock, represented in person or by proxy at the Meeting, will constitute a quorum with respect to the voting of proposals submitted to the stockholders, as described in this proxy statement. For purposes of determining whether a quorum is present, stockholders of record who are present at the Meeting in person or by proxy are considered to be present at the Meeting.

#### Vote Required

The table below describes the vote required at the Meeting to approve each of the proposals described in this proxy statement, assuming the presence of a quorum:

Proposal	
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1. Election of directors

2. Ratification of the selection of Freed Maxick CPAs, P.C. as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022 Vote Required

Plurality of the shares present in person or by proxy at the Meeting and entitled to vote

Majority of the shares present in person or by proxy at the Meeting and entitled to vote\*

\* The selection of Freed Maxick CPAs, P.C. is being presented to our stockholders for ratification. The Audit and Finance Committee will consider the outcome of this vote when selecting our independent registered public

accounting firm for this and subsequent fiscal years but may, in its discretion, determine to maintain its selection of Freed Maxick CPAs, P.C.

### Abstentions

Shares that abstain from voting on one or more proposals to be acted on at the Meeting are considered to be present for the purpose of determining whether a quorum exists. Abstentions will have no effect on the election of directors; however, abstentions will have the effect of voting against the other proposals set forth in this proxy statement, because abstentions are deemed to be present and entitled to vote but do not count toward the affirmative vote required to approve the proposal.

# **Broker Voting**

If you own your shares through a broker and do not provide your broker with specific voting instructions, your broker will have the discretion under the rules governing brokers who hold record ownership of shares in street name for their clients to vote your shares on routine matters but not otherwise. The only proposal being submitted to the stockholders that is considered routine and as to which brokers may exercise discretion to vote is Proposal 2 concerning ratification of the selection of our independent registered public accounting firm. Brokers will not be permitted to vote shares they hold as nominee in their discretion for the election of directors. If you want your shares held in your broker account to be counted in the election of directors, you must provide instructions to your broker on how to vote your shares.

A broker non-vote occurs when shares held by a broker are not voted on a non-routine proposal because the broker has not received voting instructions from the beneficial owner and the broker lacks discretionary authority to vote the shares in the absence of such instructions. Shares subject to broker non-votes are considered to be present for the purpose of determining whether a quorum exists and thus count towards satisfying the quorum requirement but are not counted for purposes of determining the number of shares entitled to vote on non-routine matters. A broker non-vote will have no effect on the election of directors or on the approval of the advisory resolutions, with respect to non-routine matters, shares representing broker non-votes will not be counted for purposes of determining the number of shares entitled to vote on such proposals.

#### **PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

Our Board of Directors currently has five directors, each of whom has been nominated to serve for an additional oneyear term. If elected, each director standing for election shall serve until the next annual meeting of stockholders and until his or her successor shall have been duly elected and qualified. Except for Mr. Popielec, none of the individuals nominated for re-election to our Board, is or has been employed by a parent, subsidiary or other affiliate of the Company. The names of, and certain information with respect to, the persons nominated for election as directors are presented below.

Name	Age	Present Principal Occupation, Employment History and Expertise
Michael D. Popielec	60	Mr. Popielec has served as our President and Chief Executive Officer and as a director of the Company since December 30, 2010. Mr. Popielec has over 30 years' experience in growing domestic and international industrial businesses. Prior to joining us, Mr. Popielec operated his own management consulting business from 2009 to 2010 and was Group President, Applied Technologies from 2008 to 2009 and Group President, Diversified Components from 2005 to 2007 at Carlisle Companies, Inc., a \$2.5 billion diversified global manufacturer. Prior to that, from 2003 to 2005, he held various positions, including Chief Operating Officer, Americas, for Danka Business Systems, PLC. From 1985 to 2002, Mr. Popielec held positions of increasing responsibility at General Electric Company, culminating in his serving as a GE corporate officer and as President and Chief Executive Officer of GE Power Controls, the European arm of GE Industrial Systems. Mr. Popielec has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan State University. Mr. Popielec has been nominated for re-election to our Board of Directors because of his operations expertise, his experience in growing domestic and international businesses and his position as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company.
Thomas L. Saeli	65	Mr. Saeli has been a director of the Company since March 2010. Since 2011, Mr. Saeli has served as the Chief Executive Officer and a director of JRB Enterprises, a diversified manufacturer of primarily commercial low slope roofing systems. From 2009 to 2011, Mr. Saeli was a consultant to international corporate clients on matters involving business development strategies, acquisitions and operations. He previously served as Chief Executive Officer and a member of the board of directors of Noble International, Ltd., an international automotive supplier. Prior to that, Mr. Saeli was Vice President of Corporate Development for Lear Corporation, an international automotive supplier. Mr. Saeli has served on boards of various privately held businesses and nonprofit organizations. Mr. Saeli has a BA in Economics from Hamilton College, and an MBA in Finance and Accounting from Columbia University's Graduate School of Business. Mr. Saeli has been nominated for re-election to our Board of Directors because of his manufacturing, corporate development, mergers and acquisitions and finance experience. Mr. Saeli qualifies as an audit committee financial expert under applicable SEC rules.
Robert W. Shaw II	65	Mr. Shaw has been a director of the Company since June 2010. Since 2015 he has been a consultant for Pratt Miller, Inc., a large engineering company for automotive racing and defense businesses. Since 2015 as well, he has been a

senior advisor to Hornblower Group, the world's largest operator of excursion vessels, plus Seaward Services and the American Queen Steamboat

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<b>Present Principal Occupation, Employment History and Expertise</b> Company. Mr. Shaw has served as President of the largest dining and excursion boat operator in the United States, with over 100 vessels. He has been President of a large mechanical contracting company specializing in the federal government and healthcare markets. Mr. Shaw served in the US Marine Corps as an infantry Captain, has an MBA degree from Harvard University and a BS degree in engineering from Cornell University. Mr. Shaw has been nominated for re-election to our Board of Directors because of his management expertise and experience as an executive officer.
Ranjit C. Singh	69	Mr. Singh has been a director of the Company since August 2000 and served as Chair of our Board of Directors from December 2001 to June 2007. Mr. Singh is currently the Chief Executive Officer of CSR Consulting Group, which provides business and technology consulting services, a position that he has held since 2008. He previously served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Aptara, a content outsourcing services company, from February 2003 until July 2008. Prior to that, he was President and Chief Operating Officer of ContentGuard, which develops and markets digital property rights software. Before joining ContentGuard, Mr. Singh worked for Xerox as a corporate Senior Vice President responsible for the software and services businesses. Mr. Singh has a BS and MS in Electrical Engineering from University of Bath, England and an MBA from Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Mr. Singh has been nominated for re-election to our Board of Directors because of his experience as an executive of and advisor to growing technology-based companies, his familiarity with international operations and his expertise in mergers and acquisitions.
Bradford T. Whitmore	65	Mr. Whitmore has been a director of the Company since June 2007 and Chair of our Board of Directors since March 2010. Since 1985, he has been the Managing Partner of Grace Brothers LP, an investment firm that holds approximately 3% of the outstanding shares of our common stock. Mr. Whitmore and Grace Brothers LP collectively hold or claim beneficial ownership of 35.2% of the outstanding shares of our common stock. Mr. Whitmore has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University and an MBA from Northwestern University's J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management. Over the past several years, Mr. Whitmore has served as a director of several privately held companies in which Grace Brothers LP and its affiliates held investments as well as not-for-profit organizations. Mr. Whitmore has been nominated for re-election to our Board of Directors because of his corporate development expertise and significant expertise in corporate financial matters.

Our Board of Directors has approved the above-named nominees for directors. Our Board of Directors recommends a vote **FOR** each of these nominees. Unless otherwise directed on your proxy, your shares will be voted **FOR** each of the above-named nominees for directors.

# **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

# General

Pursuant to the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware and our By-laws, our business, property and affairs are managed under the direction of our Board of Directors. Members of our Board of Directors are kept informed of Company business through regular discussions with our President and Chief Executive Officer and our Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary, by reviewing materials provided to them by the Company's management and by participating in meetings of the Board and its committees.

Our Board of Directors has determined that all but one of our directors, Michael D. Popielec, who serves as our President and Chief Executive Officer, are "independent" for purposes of listing standards of The NASDAQ Stock Market ("NASDAQ") applicable to the Corporate Development and Governance Committee and the Compensation and Management Committee. In addition, our Board of Directors has determined that all but two of our directors, Michael D. Popielec and Bradford T. Whitmore, our Board Chair, are "independent" for purposes of NASDAQ listing standards applicable to the Audit and Finance Committee. We believe that the segregation of the roles of Board Chair from that of the President and Chief Executive Officer ensures better overall governance of our Company and provides meaningful checks and balances regarding our overall performance. This structure allows our President and Chief Executive Officer to focus on our business while the Board Chair leads our Board of Directors in establishing corporate policy and enhancing our governance structure and practices.

Our Board of Directors has three standing committees: an Audit and Finance Committee, a Corporate Development and Governance Committee, and a Compensation and Management Committee. During 2021, our Board of Directors held five meetings and the committees of our Board of Directors held a total of thirteen meetings. During 2021, Bradford T. Whitmore served as our Board Chair. As Board Chair, Mr. Whitmore served as a non-voting ex-officio member of all of our Board committees. Each director attended, in person or virtually, at least 75% of the aggregate of: (1) the total number of meetings of the Board; and (2) the total number of meetings held by all committees of the Board on which he or she served.

Our Board of Directors has adopted a charter for each of the three standing committees that addresses the composition and function of each committee and has also adopted Corporate Governance Principles that address the composition and function of the Board of Directors. These charters and Corporate Governance Principles are available on our website at <a href="http://investor.ultralifecorporation.com">http://investor.ultralifecorporation.com</a> under the subheading "Corporate Governance." Pursuant to our Corporate Governance Principles, it is our policy that directors retire from service at the annual meeting following their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Our Board of Directors has determined that all of the directors who serve on these committees are "independent" for purposes of listing standards of NASDAQ, and that the members of the Audit and Finance Committee are also "independent" for purposes of Section 10A(m)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Our Board of Directors based these determinations primarily on a review of the responses of the directors to questions regarding employment, compensation history, affiliations and family and other relationships, and on follow-up discussions with directors.

Our Board of Directors, consisting of five members, has one director who identifies as "diverse" in accordance with NASDAQ listing standards.

#### **Committees of the Board of Directors**

The composition and the functions of our three standing committees of our Board of Directors are set forth below. Our Board of Directors will appoint members of the committees and designate Chairs of those committees from among those individuals elected at the 2022 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to serve on our Board of Directors until the 2023 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

### Audit and Finance Committee

The current members of the Audit and Finance Committee are Thomas L. Saeli (Chair), Robert W. Shaw II and Ranjit C. Singh. This committee selects our independent registered public accounting firm and has oversight responsibility for reviewing the scope and results of the independent registered public accounting firm's annual audit of our financial statements and the quality and integrity of those financial statements. Further, the committee reviews the qualifications and independence of the independent registered public accounting firm. The Committee meets with our Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, our Corporate Controller and the independent registered public accounting firm to review matters relating to internal accounting controls, our accounting practices and procedures and other matters relating to our financial condition and has the power to engage outside counsel and other outside experts. The committee also reviews and monitors areas of financial and cybersecurity risk that could have a material impact on our Company. The Audit and Finance Committee meet five times during 2021.

Our Board of Directors has determined that each of the members of the Audit and Finance Committee is "financially literate" in accordance with NASDAQ listing standards. In addition, our Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Saeli qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert" as defined in Item 407(d)(5) of Regulation S-K.

# **Corporate Development and Governance Committee**

The current members of the Corporate Development and Governance Committee are Ranjit C. Singh (Chair), Thomas L. Saeli and Robert W. Shaw II. This committee works with management to develop corporate strategy and to identify and evaluate acquisition opportunities, reviews the performance and compensation of our directors annually, makes annual recommendations to our Board of Directors for nominations for election to the Board of Directors and committee assignments and for the compensation of our directors, and manages the annual evaluation of the performance of our President and Chief Executive Officer and our Board Chair. The Corporate Development and Governance Committee met four times during 2021.

The Corporate Development and Governance Committee identifies potential nominees for director based on its own research for appropriate candidates as well as on recommendations received by directors or from stockholders as described below. The Corporate Development and Governance Committee has the authority to retain an executive search firm to assist in the identification of potential director nominees. The evaluation process and the factors considered in undertaking that evaluation are set forth under the caption "Stockholder Recommendations and Standards for Director Nominations" below.

The Corporate Development and Governance Committee also has overall responsibility for assessing and managing our exposure to risks associated with the conduct of our business.

#### **Compensation and Management Committee**

The current members of the Compensation and Management Committee are Robert W. Shaw II (Chair), Thomas L. Saeli and Ranjit C. Singh. The Compensation and Management Committee has ultimate responsibility for determining the compensation of officers elected by our Board of Directors, granting stock options and other equity awards and otherwise administering our equity compensation plans, and approving and administering any other compensation plans or agreements. The Compensation and Management Committee has the authority to retain outside experts in making compensation determinations. Our 2014 Long-Term Incentive Plan ("2014 LTIP") is administered by the Compensation and Management Committee. The Compensation and Management Committee met four times during 2021.

#### Stockholder Recommendations and Standards for Director Nominations

As noted above, the Corporate Development and Governance Committee considers and establishes procedures regarding recommendations for nomination to our Board of Directors, including nominations submitted by stockholders. Such recommendations, if any, should be sent to our Corporate Secretary, Attn: Philip A. Fain, Ultralife Corporation, 2000 Technology Parkway, Newark, New York 14513. Any recommendations submitted to the Corporate Secretary should be in writing and should include any material the stockholder considers appropriate in

support of that recommendation but must include the information that would be required under the rules of the SEC in a proxy statement soliciting proxies for the election of such candidate and a signed consent of the candidate to serve as a director, should he or she be elected. The Corporate Development and Governance Committee evaluates all potential candidates in the same manner, regardless of the source of the recommendation.

The Corporate Development and Governance Committee reviews the credentials of potential director candidates, including those recommended by stockholders, in making a determination whether to conduct a full evaluation of a candidate. The Corporate Development and Governance Committee considers the composition, size and diversity of the existing Board of Directors, along with other factors such as any anticipated vacancies due to retirement or other reasons and the Company's need for a person with specific skills, experiences or attributes, in making its determination to conduct a full evaluation of a candidate. As part of the full evaluation process, the Corporate Development and Governance Committee may conduct interviews, obtain additional background information and conduct reference checks of candidates. The Corporate Development and Governance Committee may also ask the candidate to meet with management and other members of our Board of Directors.

In evaluating a director candidate, our Board of Directors, with the assistance of the Corporate Development and Governance Committee, considers a variety of factors that would qualify the candidate to serve as a director. The criteria for selection to our Board of Directors, as described in our Corporate Governance Principles, include character and leadership skills; general business acumen and executive experience; knowledge of strategy, finance and relations between business and government; and internal business operations – all to ensure an active and diverse Board of Directors whose members work well together and possess the collective knowledge and expertise required to meaningfully contribute as directors. Our Corporate Development and Governance Committee reviews the qualifications of director candidates with those of our current directors to augment and complement the skills, experiences and attributes of our current Board members. The Company is committed to a Board of Directors comprised of individuals with diverse backgrounds, skills and experiences.

# Annual Meeting Attendance

Our policy is that all of the directors, absent special circumstances, should participate in our Annual Meeting of Stockholders, either in person or telephonically. All directors participated in last year's Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

#### **Executive Sessions**

Our Corporate Governance Principles require our independent directors to meet in executive session regularly by requiring them to have at least four regularly scheduled meetings per year without management present. Our independent directors met in executive session four times during 2021. In addition, our standing committees meet in executive session on a regular basis.

#### **Communicating with the Board of Directors**

Stockholders interested in communicating directly with our Board of Directors as a group or individually may do so in writing to our Corporate Secretary, Attn. Philip A. Fain, Ultralife Corporation, 2000 Technology Parkway, Newark, New York 14513. The Corporate Secretary will review all such correspondence and forward to our Board of Directors a summary of that correspondence and copies of any correspondence that, in his opinion, deals with the functions of the Board of Directors or that he otherwise determines requires their attention. Directors may at any time review a log of all correspondence received by us that are addressed to members of the Board of Directors and request copies of any such correspondence. Any concerns relating to accounting, internal controls or auditing matters will be brought to the attention of the Audit and Finance Committee and handled in accordance with the procedures established by the Audit and Finance Committee with respect to such matters.

# **Code of Ethics**

We have a Code of Ethics applicable to all employees, including our executive officers and all members of our Board of Directors. Our Code of Ethics incorporates the elements of a code of ethics specified in Item 406 of Regulation S-K and also complies with NASDAQ requirements for a code of conduct. Stockholders can find a link to this Code of Ethics on our website at <a href="http://investor.ultralifecorporation.com">http://investor.ultralifecorporation.com</a> under the subheading "Corporate Governance."

Our Code of Ethics emphasizes our commitment to conducting business in a legal and ethical manner and encourages prompt and confidential reporting of any suspected violations of law or the Code of Ethics. As part of our Code of Ethics, directors and employees are expected to make business decisions and to take actions based upon the best interests of our Company and not based upon personal relationships or benefits. In conjunction with our Code of Ethics, our General Counsel conducts an annual training session with our Board of Directors with emphasis on all facets of compliance with new and existing regulations and best practices. Any potential conflict of interest, and any transaction or relationship involving our officers or directors that could give rise to a conflict of interest, must be reviewed and resolved by our Corporate Development and Governance Committee.

#### **Related Party Transactions**

We have adopted written policies and procedures for the review and approval or ratification of any "related party transaction," as defined by Regulation S-K, Item 404. The policy provides that each related party transaction must be reviewed by our Audit and Finance Committee. The Audit and Finance Committee reviews the relevant facts and circumstances of the transaction, including if the transaction is on terms comparable to those that could be obtained in arms-length dealings with an unrelated third party and the extent of the related party's interest in the transaction, taking into account the conflicts of interest and corporate opportunity provisions of our Code of Ethics, and either recommends that the Board of Directors approve or disapprove the related party transaction. We will disclose all related party transactions, as required, in our filings with the SEC. No reportable transactions occurred during 2021 and 2020, and there are currently no such proposed transactions.

#### **Employee, Officer and Director Hedging**

Pursuant to our Insider Trading Compliance Policy, the Company's directors, officers and employees are prohibited from engaging in short sales of Ultralife securities or from buying or selling put options, call options or other derivatives of Ultralife securities.

#### **Risk Management**

Our management team is responsible for assisting the Corporate Development and Governance Committee in its assessment of our exposure to risks associated with the conduct of business. We have an enterprise risk management process to identify, assess and manage the most significant risks facing our Company. Our Corporate Development and Governance Committee has overall responsibility to regularly review management's risk management process, including the policies and guidelines used by management to identify, assess and manage our exposure to risk on an on-going basis. Our Audit and Finance Committee has oversight responsibility for financial risks and other risks that could have a material impact on our Company. Our management reviews these financial risks with our Audit and Finance Committee regularly and reviews the risk management process, as it affects financial risks, with our Audit and Finance Committee on an on-going basis. Based upon this risk assessment and management process, the Board may recommend changes to the operations of the Company to reduce risk.

#### DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

We presently use cash compensation to attract and retain qualified candidates to serve on our Board of Directors. Our practice is to survey our peer group companies, generally consisting of like-sized micro-cap companies and/or public companies in our industry, periodically to ascertain whether our overall director compensation is appropriate and balanced. If we perceive that there has been a major change in our Company or the market, we may alter the time between surveys. In setting director compensation, we consider the amount of time that directors spend fulfilling their duties to us, the skill-level required by members of our Board of Directors, and based on publicly available data, the compensation paid to directors in similar sized organizations in our industry. Our program is designed to deliver annual director compensation at the median levels of director compensation for companies in similar industries and of similar size. Our annual director compensation period runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Annual Retainers**

Each non-employee director will receive an annual cash retainer of \$70,040, except for the Board Chair, who will receive an annual cash retainer of \$103,000, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, the same as the amounts for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. These retainers are paid quarterly in cash. In addition, each director who is a member of a Board committee receives an additional cash retainer for such committee service.

Annual retainers for Board committee service for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 were as follows:

	Annual Retainer for Committee Members	Annual Retainer for Committee Chair
Audit and Finance Committee	\$6,950	\$17,250
Compensation and Management Committee	\$5,410	\$13,650
Corporate Development and Governance		
Committee	\$6,950	\$17,250

Annual retainers for Board committee service for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 were as follows::

	Annual Retainer for Committee Members	Annual Retainer for <u>Committee Chair</u>
Audit and Finance Committee	\$6,950	\$17,250
Compensation and Management Committee	\$5,410	\$13,650
Corporate Development and Governance		
Committee	\$6,950	\$17,250

Annual retainers for both committee members and committee chairs are paid quarterly in cash. For Board and committee service during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021, we paid our non-employee directors an aggregate \$399,890.

Our non-employee directors have stock ownership guidelines that require them to maintain ownership of at least \$40,000 of our common stock. Newly elected directors have two years from their election to the Board to achieve the stock ownership requirement. Currently, all of our non-employee directors meet the stock ownership guidelines. Refer to the Executive Officer Compensation section contained herein for stock ownership guidelines for our executive officers.

#### **Director Compensation Table**

The table below summarizes the compensation paid by us to our non-employee directors for their service for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021.

Name	Fees Paid in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$)	Non- Equity Incentive Plan Compensation	Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings	All Other Compensation (\$)	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
Thomas L. Saeli	<b>99,6</b> 50	-	-	-	-	-	<b>99,6</b> 50
Robert W. Shaw II	97,590	-	-	-	-	-	97,590
Ranjit C. Singh	<b>99,6</b> 50	-	-	-	-	-	99,650
Bradford T. Whitmore	103,000	-	-			-	103,000
	399,890	-	_			_	399,890

(1) Amounts shown represent cash compensation earned during for 2021. Amounts may differ from amounts paid in 2021 due to timing of payments.

- (2)There were no stock awards granted to our non-employee directors during 2021 or outstanding at December 31, 2021.
- (3) There were no option awards granted to our non-employee directors during 2021 or outstanding at December 31, 2021.
- (4) There was no non-equity incentive plan compensation paid to our non-employee directors for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021.
- (5) There were no non-qualified deferred compensation earnings for our non-employee directors for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021.
- (6) There was no other compensation paid to our non-employee directors for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021.

Michael D. Popielec, our President and Chief Executive Officer, is ineligible to receive compensation for his service as a director because he is also an employee. Refer to the Summary Compensation Table for the compensation of our executive officers.

# **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Our executive officers are appointed annually by our Board of Directors. Our executive officers for fiscal 2021 were:

- Michael D. Popielec, President and Chief Executive Officer •
- Philip A. Fain, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary •

There were no other individuals who meet the definition of Named Executive Officer.

Mr. Popielec's information is set forth above with the other directors standing for election. Certain information with respect to Philip A. Fain, our other executive officer, is presented below.

<u>Name</u>	Age	Present Principal Occupation and Employment History
Philip A. Fain	67	Mr. Fain was named our Chief Financial Officer in November 2009, Treasurer in December 2009 and Corporate Secretary in April 2013. He previously served as Vice President of Business Development, having joined us in February 2008. Prior to joining us, he was Managing Partner of CXO on the GO, LLC, a management-consulting firm, which he co-founded in November 2003 and which we retained in connection with our acquisition activity. Prior to founding CXO on the GO, LLC, Mr. Fain served as Vice President of Finance - RayBan Sunoptics for Luxottica, SpA. Prior to the acquisition of Bausch & Lomb's global eyewear business by Luxottica, Mr. Fain served as Bausch & Lomb's Senior Vice President Finance - Global Eyewear from 1997 to 1999 and as Vice President and Controller for the US Sunglass business from 1993 to 1996. In these roles, he led the process to acquire some of the World's most sought-after sunglass companies and brands for Bausch & Lomb. From 1983 to 1993, Mr. Fain served in various positions with Bausch & Lomb including executive positions in corporate accounting, finance and audit. Mr. Fain began his career as a CPA and consultant with Arthur Andersen & Co. in 1977. He received his BA in Economics from the University of Rochester and an MBA from the William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration of the University of Rochester.

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER COMPENSATION

This proxy statement provides certain information relating to the compensation of our named executive officers. We have determined that Messrs. Popielec and Fain were our only named executive officers for 2021.

As a smaller reporting company under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, we are providing executive compensation information in accordance with the scaled disclosure requirements of Regulation S-K. As a result, a Compensation Disclosure and Analysis and certain other disclosures are not included.

# **Summary Compensation Table**

The following table sets forth information concerning the compensation earned by or awarded to our executive officers for their services in all capacities to us during 2021 and 2020:

		Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)	Option Awards (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Name and Principal Position	Year	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
Michael D. Popielec, President and Chief	2021	531,761	-	-	120,056	24,483	676,300
Executive Officer	2020	531,761	72,088	-	111,084	21,618	736,551
Philip A. Fain, Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer	2021	338,713	-	-	60,028	16,712	415,453
and Secretary	2020	338,713	30,612	-	55,542	13,342	438,209

- (1) Amounts shown represent base salary cash compensation paid during the respective years. Amounts may differ from amounts earned due to timing of payroll periods. Refer to the "Narrative to Summary Compensation Table" below for further information.
- (2) Amounts shown represent short-term incentive plan ("STIP") cash awards earned during the respective years and paid in the subsequent year. Refer to the "Narrative to Summary Compensation Table" for further information.
- (3) There were no stock awards other than stock options granted during fiscal years 2021 and 2020.
- (4) Amounts shown represent the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options awarded during the respective years computed in accordance with Accounting Standards Codification Topic 718, Compensation Stock Compensation ("ASC 718"). See the notes to our audited consolidated financial statements included in our Annual Reports on Form 10-K for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2021 and December 31, 2020, respectively, for the assumptions used in valuing these stock option awards in accordance with ASC 718. Refer to the "Narrative to Summary Compensation Table" below for further information.
- (5) Amounts shown as "All Other Compensation" consist of the following:

		401(k) Plan Employer Match (\$)	Other Benefits <sup>(a)</sup> (\$)	Total (\$)
Michael D. Popielec	2021	10,349	14,134	24,483
	2020	8,400	13,218	21,618
Philip A. Fain	2021	11,600	5,112	16,712
	2020	8,400	4,942	13,342

(a) The "Other Benefits" column of the above table includes premiums paid for group medical and dental coverage and long-term care insurance, reimbursement for tax preparation and certain financial planning expenses.

# Narrative to Summary Compensation Table

### Compensation Overview

Our executive compensation program is evaluated and approved each year by our Compensation and Management Committee. Annual total compensation for our executive officers is comprised of the following key components:

- Base salary;
- Short-term incentive plan ("STIP");
- Long-term incentive plan ("LTIP"); and
- Limited perquisites and other benefits.

Our executive compensation program is structured to align the interests of our executive officers with those of our stockholders by rewarding performance that achieves successful execution of our business strategy, grows our business and increases stockholder value. Our executive compensation program is designed to incentivize our executive officers to achieve strong financial, operational and strategic performance and to provide a link between the compensation earned by our executives and the creation of long-term sustainable value. The Compensation and Management Committee establishes specific annual, long-term and strategic goals and seeks to reward our executive officers for performance that meets or exceeds those goals. In addition, we expect our executive officers to work toward achievement of these goals while maintaining the highest ethical standards.

# Base Salary

The Compensation and Management Committee evaluates the performance of Mr. Popielec, our President and Chief Executive Officer, and presents its evaluation and recommendation annually for base salary adjustment, if any, to the Board of Directors for approval. Mr. Popielec evaluates the performance of Mr. Fain, our Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Secretary, and presents his evaluation and recommendation annually for a base salary adjustment, if any, to the Compensation and Management Committee, which, in turn, may recommend acceptance of or adjustment to such base salary recommendation to the Board of Directors. If adjustments to base salaries are recommended and approved, the adjustments are made to be effective for a period ranging from twelve to fifteen months from the date of the last salary adjustment.

In 2020 and 2021, Mr. Popielec and Mr. Fain informed the Compensation and Management Committee, that they would voluntarily forego any base salary increases for 2020 and 2021, respectively, although they were eligible for increases based on a number of factors including individual and Company performance.

# Short-Term Incentive Plan

Our Compensation and Management Committee establishes a STIP each fiscal year to provide our executive officers an opportunity to earn an annual cash award in addition to their base salaries. The STIP is designed to place "at risk" a significant portion of the annual total cash compensation of our executive officers to incentivize them to achieve our short-term financial objectives while making progress toward our longer-term goals. Generally, the STIP target levels are set such that, assuming achievement of pre-established performance metrics, the combined annual base salary and STIP award for our executive officers will be at or near the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile for executive officers at the companies in our peer group.

For 2021, the STIP target bonus levels for Messrs. Popielec and Fain were 75% and 50% of their respective base salaries. The performance goals to be achieved to be awarded the STIP targeted bonus for 2021 were consolidated operating profit and revenue goals of \$7.1 million and \$114.0 million, respectively, as measured pursuant to generally accepted accounting principles. The STIP award was structured with a 70% weighting on the consolidated operating profit and revenue goals would result in no award being earned with respect to that metric. Achievement of the target goals would result in a 75% payment of the target bonus levels with respect to that metric. Achievement of over 100% to 132% of the consolidated operating profit goal and achievement of over 100% to 111% of the revenue

goal would result in an award ranging from 76% to 100% of the target award with respect to the metric for which such performance levels had been achieved. Achievement of over 132% to 166% of the consolidated operating profit goal and over 111% to 139% of the revenue goal would result in an award ranging from 101% to 150% of the target award with respect to the metric for which such performance levels had been achieved. Our executive officers were eligible for a partial award if one of the two metrics was achieved.

Based on our 2021 financial performance, Messrs. Popielec and Fain did not earn STIP awards for 2021.

For 2020, the STIP target bonus levels for Messrs. Popielec and Fain were 75% and 50% of their respective base salaries. The performance goals to be achieved to be awarded the STIP targeted bonus for 2020 were consolidated operating profit and revenue goals of \$9.4 million and \$122.3 million, respectively, as measured pursuant to generally accepted accounting principles. The STIP award was structured with a 70% weighting on the consolidated operating profit goal and a 30% weighting on the consolidated revenue goal. Achievement of less than 78% of the consolidated operating profit goal or less than 85% of the revenue goal would result in no award being earned with respect to that metric. Achievement of 78% to 100% of the operating profit goal and achievement of 85% to 100% of the revenue goal would result in an award ranging from 50% to 100% of the target award with respect to the metric for which such performance levels had been achieved. Achievement of over 100% to 125% of the target award with respect to the metric for which such performance levels had been achieved. Our executive officers were eligible for a partial award if one of the two metrics was achieved.

Based on our 2020 financial performance, Messrs. Popielec and Fain earned STIP awards for 2020 of \$72,088 and \$30,612, respectively, which were paid in February 2021.

# Long-Term Incentive Plan

Stock options and other equity awards are used to align the interests of our executive officers with those of our stockholders by incentivizing our executive officers to achieve long-term growth and sustainable stockholder value.

Refer to "Outstanding Equity Awards" below for stock options granted during 2021 and 2020. There were no other equity-based awards granted to our executive officers during 2021 and 2020.

#### **Retirement Benefits**

We provide a tax-qualified 401(k) plan to all active employees that provides for both employer and employee contributions. Under this plan, employees may contribute a portion of their eligible cash compensation to the plan. For 2021, the Company matched 100% on the first 3% and 50% on the next 2% of an employee's eligible contributions. For 2020, the Company matched 50% on the first 6% of an employee's eligible contributions.

#### Perquisites and Other Personal Benefits

We provide our executive officers with certain perquisites and other personal benefits which are consistent with the objectives of our overall compensation program to better enable us to attract and retain superior employees for key positions. The Compensation and Management Committee periodically reviews the levels of such perquisites and other personal benefits to ensure they remain at appropriate levels. The aggregate incremental costs of the perquisites and other personal benefits provided to our executive officers are included in the "All Other Compensation" column of the Summary Compensation Table with components detailed in an accompanying note.

#### **Outstanding Equity Awards**

The following table sets forth information concerning the number of shares underlying exercisable and non-exercisable stock option awards outstanding at December 31, 2021 for our executive officers.

Name	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Unexercisable (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Unearned (#)	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date
Michael D. Popielec	40,000	-	-	4.2902	6/1/2023
	40,000	-	-	9.8514	4/18/2025
	30,000	15,000 (1)	-	8.2523	7/23/2026
	13,334	26,666 (2)	-	6.5062	4/22/2027
	-	40,000 (3)	-	6.9694	10/20/2028
Philip A. Fain	30,000 (7)	-	-	3.7103	3/3/2022
	20,000	-	-	4.2902	6/1/2023
	20,000	-	-	5.7075	4/19/2024
	20,000	-	-	9.8514	4/18/2025
	16,667	8,333 (4)	-	8.2523	7/23/2026
	6,667	13,333 (5)	-	6.5062	4/22/2027
	-	20,000 (6)	-	6.9694	10/20/2028

- (1) On July 23, 2019, our Board of Directors, on recommendation of the Compensation and Management Committee, granted to Mr. Popielec the option to purchase 45,000 shares of our common stock. This option vested with respect to 15,000 shares on July 23, 2020 and 15,000 shares on July 23, 2021 and will vest with respect to 15,000 shares on July 23, 2022.
- (2) On April 22, 2020, our Board of Directors, on recommendation of the Compensation and Management Committee, granted to Mr. Popielec the option to purchase 40,000 shares of our common stock. This option vested with respect to 13,334 shares on April 22, 2021 and will vest with respect to 13,333 shares on April 22, 2022 and 13,333 shares on April 23, 2023.
- (3) On October 20, 2021 our Board of Directors, on recommendation of the Compensation and Management Committee, granted to Mr. Popielec the option to purchase 40,000 shares of our common stock. This option will vest with respect to 13,334 shares on October 20, 2022, 13,333 shares on October 20, 2023 and 13,333 shares on October 20, 2024.
- (4) On July 23, 2019, our Board of Directors, on recommendation of the Compensation and Management Committee, granted to Mr. Fain the option to purchase 25,000 shares of our common stock. This option vested with respect to 8,334 shares on July 23, 2020 and 8,333 shares on July 23, 2021 and will vest with respect to 8,333 shares on July 23, 2022.
- (5) On April 22, 2020, our Board of Directors, on recommendation of the Compensation and Management Committee, granted to Mr. Fain the option to purchase 20,000 shares of our common stock. This option vested with respect to 6,667 shares on April 22, 2021 and will vest with respect to 6,667 shares on April 22, 2022 and 6,666 shares on April 23, 2023.
- (6) On October 20, 2021, our Board of Directors, on recommendation of the Compensation and Management Committee, granted to Mr. Fain the option to purchase 20,000 shares of our common stock. This option will vest with respect to 6,667 shares on October 20, 2022, 6,666 shares on October 20, 2023 and 6,666 shares on October 20, 2024.
- (7) These options were subsequently exercised by Mr. Fain on March 2, 2022.

There were no other equity awards outstanding at December 31, 2021 for our executive officers.

# **Option Exercises**

The following table sets forth information concerning the exercise of stock option awards for the year ended December 31, 2021 for our executive officers.

	Number of Shares	
	Acquired on	Value Realized on
Name	Exercise (#)	Exercise (\$)
Michael D. Popielec	19,292 (1)	143,942 (2)
Philip A. Fain	23,160 (3)	161,888 (4)

- (1) Represents shares of the Company's common stock acquired on August 10, 2021 and December 17, 2021 upon the exercise of options for 40,000 shares of common stock otherwise expiring on March 3, 2022 and the exercise of options for 20,000 shares of common stock other expiring on March 5, 2022, net of shares of common stock having a fair market value equal to the aggregate exercise price of the shares of common stock for which the options were exercised together with the amount of minimum statutory tax withholdings.
- (2) Represents the aggregate fair market value of the net shares of the Company's common stock acquired pursuant to the Company's 2014 LTIP.
- (3) Represents share of the Company's common stock acquired on March 1, 2021 upon the exercise of options for 70,000 shares of common stock otherwise expiring on March 4, 2021, net of shares of common stock having a fair value equal to the aggregate exercise price of the shares of common stock for which the options were exercised together with the amount of minimum statutory tax withholdings.
- (4) Represents the aggregate fair market value of the net shares of the Company's common stock acquired pursuant to the Company's 2004 LTIP.

#### **Employment Arrangements**

On December 6, 2010, the Company entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Popielec, providing that Mr. Popielec would become our President and Chief Executive Officer effective December 30, 2010. Mr. Popielec's annual base salary was set at \$450,000 subject to adjustment. Mr. Popielec is also eligible to receive an annual cash bonus under our STIP if we meet or exceed certain quantitative and qualitative performance metrics to be agreed upon and approved by the Compensation and Management Committee no later than January 31 of the year for which the bonus applies. The bonus goals and payout ranges for 2020 and 2021 are set forth above beginning on Page 13.

Pursuant to the terms of his employment agreement, Mr. Popielec was granted options to purchase shares of our common stock. Certain of the options granted were conditional and subject to stockholder approval to increase the number of shares available under our Restated 2004 LTIP ("2004 LTIP"). Stockholder approval of this increase was obtained in June 2011. All options awarded to Mr. Popielec pursuant to the terms of his employee agreement were exercised or expired as of December 31, 2020. Mr. Popielec is eligible for additional stock option grants on recommendation of the Compensation and Management Committee. Refer to the Outstanding Equity Awards section above beginning on Page 14.

Mr. Popielec is also entitled to receive the retirement benefits, perquisites and other personal benefits described under the sections above entitled "Retirement Benefits" and "Perquisites and Other Personal Benefits".

The employment agreement provides that Mr. Popielec's employment is "at will." Mr. Popielec is entitled to certain severance benefits if we terminate his employment without Business Reasons or a Constructive Termination occurs (as those terms are defined in the employment agreement), including: (a) salary continuation for a period of 12 months following the termination date; (b) a pro rata amount (calculated on a per diem basis) of the full-year bonus which Mr. Popielec would have earned for the calendar year in which the termination of employment occurs; (c) acceleration of vesting of all outstanding stock options and other equity awards to the extent that the outstanding options and other equity awards would otherwise have vested no more than 18 months after the date of termination, and all such options

and other equity awards shall remain exercisable for one year following the termination date or through the original expiration date, if earlier; (d) continuation of health benefits for Mr. Popielec, his spouse and any dependent children for a period of 12 months after the termination date followed by 18 months of executive-paid COBRA eligibility. In addition, if we terminate the employment of Mr. Popielec within 12 months following the occurrence of a Change in Control, without Business Reasons or if a Constructive Termination occurs, then Mr. Popielec shall be entitled to receive: (i) any earned but unpaid salary, any unpaid bonus from the prior year plus an amount equal to 18 months of his base salary as then in effect, payable immediately upon the termination date; (ii) one and one-half times his target bonus for the calendar year in which the termination date occurs; (iii) acceleration of vesting of all outstanding stock options and other equity awards, which are to remain exercisable for 18 months following the termination date, or through the original expiration date, if earlier; (iv) continuation of health benefits for Mr. Popielec, his spouse and any dependent children for a period of 24 months after the termination date. To the extent the vesting and/or accelerated payment of outstanding stock options would subject Mr. Popielec to the imposition of tax and/or penalties under Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code, the vesting and/or payment of such stock options and other equity shall be delayed to the extent necessary to avoid the imposition of such tax and/or penalties. The employment agreement also provides for the continuation of certain benefits in the event Mr. Popielec's employment is terminated for Disability (as defined in the employment agreement) or by his death. Mr. Popielec has also executed an Employee Confidentiality Non-Disclosure, Non-Compete, Non-Disparagement and Assignment Agreement in our standard form.

We do not have an employment agreement with Mr. Fain. Mr. Fain has executed an Employee Confidentiality Non-Disclosure, Non-Compete, Non-Disparagement and Assignment Agreement in our standard form.

# Retirement Benefits and Potential Payments upon Termination, Change in Control or Retirement

The only arrangement that we maintain that provides for retirement benefits is our tax-qualified defined contribution 401(k) plan. The material terms of our tax-qualified defined contribution 401(k) plan are summarized above under the heading "Retirement Benefits."

All of the potential payments and benefits payable by us to those of our executive officers in the event of various circumstances involving either a termination of employment or change in control are determined pursuant to the employment agreement with Mr. Popielec or the 2004 LTIP and 2014 LTIP. The employment agreement with Mr. Popielec is summarized above under the heading "Employment Arrangements". On June 18, 2018, the Compensation and Management Committee unanimously approved a resolution for full vesting of all outstanding unvested stock options and other equity awards upon the occurrence of a "Change in Control" (as defined by the 2004 LTIP and 2014 LTIP). On October 18, 2018, the Compensation and Management Committee unanimously approved a modification to the retirement policy whereby an executive officer upon retirement and signing the Company's non-compete agreement and fully complying with the same will retain any and all unexpired stock options until the relevant option term has expired.

#### **Stock Ownership Guidelines**

In order to better align the interests of our executive officers and stockholders, the Compensation and Management Committee implemented stock ownership requirements for our executive officers. The stock ownership requirements for our executive officers are as follows:

President & CEO	1.00 times salary
Chief Financial Officer	0.50 times salary

For 2021, the Compensation and Management Committee established the presumed share price to be used for purposes of determining the minimum number of shares to be owned by the executive officers. This presumed price was \$9.14 per share, which was based on the volume weighted average price ("VWAP"), calculated as an amount equal to the sum of the dollar value of every transaction in our common stock for the two-year period ended December 31, 2021 divided by the total shares traded for such two-year period. Each year the Compensation and Management Committee will establish a new price per share to be used to determine the minimum number of shares required to be held which will be based on the VWAP of our common stock for the preceding two-year period. Executive officers have three years from the date of hire to achieve the required holdings, which are based on the price per share as calculated above. Additionally, our stock ownership policy requires that until the share ownership guidelines are met, executive officers are prohibited from disposing of more than 50% of vested shares received from restricted share grants (on an after-tax

basis) and 50% of shares received on exercise of stock options. Shares owned by an executive, as well as shares underlying awards of stock options and restricted stock are treated as owned by the executive for purposes of determining whether required ownership has been achieved. Our executive officers have met their respective stock ownership requirement.

# PROPOSAL 2 RATIFY THE SELECTION OF OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

The firm of Freed Maxick CPAs, P.C. ("Freed Maxick") served as our independent registered public accounting firm for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020.

The selection of Freed Maxick to serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2022 will be presented to our stockholders for ratification at the Meeting. Our Board of Directors recommends a vote in favor of the proposal to ratify this selection, and the persons named in the enclosed proxy (unless otherwise instructed therein) will vote such proxies **FOR** this proposal. If the stockholders do not ratify this selection, the Audit and Finance Committee will seek to identify and address the reason or reasons why the stockholders did not ratify the Committee's selection. The Audit and Finance Committee will consider such reason or reasons in selecting an independent registered public accounting firm for 2022 but retains discretion to select Freed Maxick.

We have been advised by Freed Maxick that they will have a representative available during the Meeting, either in person or telephonically, who will be available to respond to appropriate questions. In addition, we intend to give such representative an opportunity to make any statements if the representative should so desire.

# **Principal Accountant Fees and Services**

Aggregate fees for professional services rendered for us for 2021 and 2020 were:

	2021	2020
Audit Fees	\$425,341	\$381,205
Audit - Related Fees	8,500	8,000
Tax Fees	19,224	-
Total Fees	\$453,065	\$389,205

# Audit Fees

Audit fees were for professional services rendered for the audits of our consolidated financial statements and reviews of our quarterly consolidated financial statements. Audit fees for 2021 include fees attributable to business combination accounting and reporting relating to the Company's acquisition of the business of Excell Battery Group in December 2021. Audit fees for 2020 include fees attributable to the first-year attestation of internal controls over financial reporting for Southwest Electronic Energy Corporation acquired by the Company in May 2019.

#### Audit-Related Fees

Audit-related fees were for the annual audits of our 401(k) defined contribution plan.

# Tax Fees

Tax fees were attributable to due diligence performed in connection with the Company's acquisition of Excell Battery Group in 2021.

Our Audit and Finance Committee has not adopted pre-approval policies and procedures for audit and non-audit services. Nevertheless, all audit, audit-related and permitted non-audit services for which our independent registered public accounting firm was engaged were reviewed and approved prior to the commencement of the services by our Audit and Finance Committee in compliance with applicable SEC requirements.

# **REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The duties and responsibilities of the Audit and Finance Committee are set forth in our Audit and Finance Committee Charter, a copy of which is available on our website at <u>http://investor.ultralifecorporation.com</u> under the subheading "Corporate Governance." Among other things, the Audit and Finance Committee reviews the adequacy of our system of internal control regarding financial reporting, disclosure controls and procedures and preparing our consolidated financial statements. In addition, the Audit and Finance Committee recommends to our Board of Directors that our audited financial statements be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K, approves our quarterly filings on Form 10-Q and selects the independent registered public accounting firm to audit our books and records.

The Audit and Finance Committee has:

- Reviewed and discussed our audited financial statements for 2021 with our management and with Freed Maxick, our independent registered public accounting firm for 2021;
- Discussed with Freed Maxick, our independent registered public accounting firm for 2021, the matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standard No. 1301, *Communications with Audit Committees*, as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("PCAOB"); and
- Received from Freed Maxick the written disclosures and the letter from Freed Maxick required by applicable requirements of the PCAOB regarding the independent registered public accounting firm's communications with the Audit and Finance Committee concerning independence and has discussed with Freed Maxick their independence.

The Audit and Finance Committee met with our independent accountants with and without management present and discussed with them the results of their examinations, their evaluations of our internal control over financial reporting, our disclosure controls and procedures and the quality of our financial reporting. Based on the review and discussions referred to above, the Audit and Finance Committee concluded that Freed Maxick is independent and recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2021 for filing with the SEC.

The Audit and Finance Committee:

Thomas L. Saeli, Chair Robert W. Shaw II Ranjit C. Singh

# **OTHER MATTERS**

Our Board of Directors does not intend to present and has not been informed that any other person intends to present, any matters for action at the Meeting other than those specifically referred to in this proxy statement. If any other matters properly come before the Meeting, it is intended that the holders of the proxies will act in respect thereof in accordance with their best judgment.

### SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS

The table below shows certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of shares of our common stock by each person known by us to beneficially own more than five percent of the outstanding shares of our common stock, with percentages based on 16,127,082 shares issued and outstanding as of May 24, 2022.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Number of Shares Beneficially Owned	Percent of Class Beneficially Owned
Bradford T. Whitmore (1) 1603 Orrington Avenue, Suite 900 Evanston, IL 60201	5,671,554	35.2%
Dimensional Fund Advisors LP (2) Building One 6300 Bee Cave Road Austin, TX 78746	1,032,446	6.4%
Visionary Wealth Advisors (3) 1405 North Green Mount Rd., Suite 500 O'Fallon, IL 62208	958,518	5.9%

- (1) Based on information contained in a Form 4 dated February 24, 2022 as filed by Bradford T. Whitmore with the SEC on February 28, 2022, Mr. Whitmore individually and as sole manager and sole voting member of SUNRAY I, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and as General Partner of Grace Brothers LP, a Delaware limited partnership, beneficially owns 5,671,554 shares of our common stock. Mr. Whitmore has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to 5,152,938 of such shares, of which 4,452,283 are held in the name in SUNRAY I, LLC, and shared voting and dispositive power (with Grace Brothers, LP) with respect to 518,616 of such shares.
- (2) Based on information contained in a Schedule 13F dated May 13, 2022 as filed by Dimensional Fund Advisors LP, a registered investment adviser, with the SEC on that same date to report beneficial ownership of shares of the Company's common stock as of March 31, 2022, and, consequently, the beneficial ownership of Dimensional Fund Advisors LP may have subsequently changed. The Schedule 13F reported that Dimensional Fund Advisors LP had sole voting power as to 999,867 shares of common stock and sole dispositive power as to 1,032,446 shares of common stock, all of which shares of common stock were held in portfolios of four registered investment companies to which Dimensional Fund Advisors LP or one of its subsidiaries furnishes investment advice and of certain other commingled funds, group trusts and separate accounts for which Dimensional Fund Advisors LP or one of its subsidiaries serves as investment manager or sub-adviser. The shares of common stock reported were owned by the investment companies, commingled funds, group trusts, and separate accounts and Dimensional Fund Advisors LP or owner and by the investment companies, commingled funds, group trusts, and separate accounts and Dimensional Fund Advisors LP or owner by the investment companies, commingled funds, group trusts, and separate accounts and Dimensional Fund Advisors LP or owner by the investment companies, commingled funds, group trusts, and separate accounts and Dimensional Fund Advisors LP or owner by the investment companies, commingled funds, group trusts, and separate accounts and Dimensional Fund Advisors LP or owner by the investment companies.
- (3) Based on information contained in a Schedule 13F dated May 12, 2022 as filed by Visionary Wealth Advisors, a registered investment adviser, with the SEC on that same date to report beneficial ownership of shares of the Company's common stock as of March 31, 2022, and, consequently, the beneficial ownership of Visionary Wealth Advisors may have subsequently changed. The Schedule 13F reported that Visionary Wealth Advisors had sole voting power as to 7,000 shares of common stock and shared dispositive power as to 958,518 shares of common stock.

#### SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF MANAGEMENT

The table below shows certain information regarding the beneficial ownership of shares of our common stock as of May 24, 2022 by (1) each of our directors, (2) each of our executive officers, and (3) all of our directors and executive officers as a group.

	Number of Shares	Percent of Class
Name of Beneficial Owner (1)	Beneficially Owned (1)	Beneficially Owned (1)(2)
Michael D. Popielec	468,176 (3)	2.9% (4)
Thomas L. Saeli	70,446	*
Robert W. Shaw II	60,750	*
Ranjit C. Singh	79,801	*
Bradford T. Whitmore	5,671,554 (5)	35.2%
Philip A. Fain	226,834 (6)	1.4% (7)
All Directors and Executive Officers as a group (6 persons)	6,577,561 (8)	40.2% (9)

\*Less than 1%

- (1) Except as otherwise indicated, the stockholders named in this table have sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares of our common stock beneficially owned by them. The information provided in this table is based upon information provided to us by such stockholders. The table reports beneficial ownership for our directors and executive officers in accordance with Rule 13d-3 under the Exchange Act. This means all our securities over which directors and executive officers directly or indirectly have or share voting or investment power are included as beneficially owned. The amounts also include shares that may be acquired by exercise of stock options within 60 days, which shares are referred to in the footnotes to this table as "shares of common stock subject to options that may be exercised."
- (2) Except as otherwise indicated, computations are based on 16,127,082 shares outstanding as of May 24, 2022.
- (3) The number of shares deemed to be beneficially owned consists of 316,509 shares of common stock held by Mr. Popielec as of May 24, 2022, or 2.0% of common stock outstanding as of that date, and 151,667 shares of common stock subject to options that may be exercised within 60 days by Mr. Popielec.
- (4) Computed based on 16,278,749 shares of common stock deemed outstanding, which consists of 16,127,082 shares of common stock outstanding as of May 24, 2022 and 151,667 shares of common stock subject to options that may be exercised within 60 days by Mr. Popielec.
- (5) See "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners" above.
- (6) The number of shares deemed to be beneficially owned consists of 128,500 shares of common stock held by Mr. Fain as of May 24, 2022, or less than 1% of common stock outstanding as of that date, and 98,334 shares of common stock subject to options that may be exercised within 60 days by Mr. Fain.
- (7) Computed based on 16,225,416 shares of common stock deemed outstanding, which consists of 16,127,082 shares of common stock outstanding as of May 24, 2022 and 98,334 shares of common stock subject to options that may be exercised within 60 days by Mr. Fain.
- (8) The number of shares deemed to be beneficially owned consists of 6,327,560 shares of common stock held by all directors and executive officers as a group as of May 24, 2021, or 39.2% of common stock outstanding as of that date, and 250,001 shares of common stock subject to options that may be exercised within 60 days.
- (9) Computed based on 16,377,083 shares of common stock deemed outstanding, which consists of 16,127,082 shares of common stock outstanding as of May 24, 2022 and 250,001 shares of common stock subject to options that may be exercised within 60 days.

# SUBMISSION OF STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS

Under Rule 14a-8 of the Exchange Act, stockholder proposals intended for inclusion in the proxy statement for our 2022 Annual Meeting of Stockholders must be submitted in writing to us to our Corporate Secretary (Attn: Philip A. Fain) at 2000 Technology Parkway, Newark, New York 14513, and must have been received by February 1, 2022.

Any stockholder proposal submitted for consideration at our 2022 Annual Meeting of Stockholders but <u>not</u> submitted for inclusion in the proxy statement for that meeting that is received by us after February 1, 2022 will not be considered filed on a timely basis with us under Rule 14a-4(c)(1) of the Exchange Act. For such proposals that are not timely filed, we retain discretion to vote proxies we receive. For such proposals that are timely filed, we retain discretion to vote proxies we receive. For such proposals that are timely filed, we retain discretion to vote proxies we receive and the proposal that are timely filed, we retain discretion to vote proxies we receive and the proposal that are to the nature of the proposal and how we intend to exercise our voting discretion and the proponent of any such proposal does not issue its own proxy statement.

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2021 as amended, as filed with the SEC, is included in the 2021 Annual Report to Stockholders which accompanies this proxy statement.

#### By Order of the Board of Directors

Bradford T. Whitmore, Chair of the Board of Directors