

**2025-26 EC&C PLG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING #6**  
**Wednesday, February 25, 2026 \* 7:30 pm (Toronto time)**  
**APPROVED MINUTES**

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2025-2026 Executive: Chair- Richard (Dick) Felton, IPC - Garnell Kemp, Vice Chair - Ralston Nunes, Sec. Treas.- Rick Brooks, Dir. Of Education- Ghous Siddiqui, Directors at Large: Angelo Ciardella, Richard Westlake, Lloyd Distant Jr. and Anastacia Johnson.

**1.0 OPENING, WELCOME & COURTSIES ETC:** Chair **Richard Felton** seeing a quorum, convened the meeting at 7:31PM, sharing regrets from **Ghous Siddiqui, Anastacia Johnson, as well as absent Angelo Ciardella and Lloyd Distant jr.**

**2.0 APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT AGENDA:** M) Rick Westlake 2) Garnell Kemp - carried

**3.0 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Attached are the draft Minutes of the **January 26, 2026**, Executive Meeting;  
M) Ralston Nunes 2) Garnell Kemp - carried

**4.0 THE RAY ALLEN MEMORIAL AWARD: Update**

**Chair Richard Felton** has still only received one nomination, but it was shared that several divisions are awaiting their next DCM to make their nominees available to us. **Rick B** indicated that in the past it is often the case that several will come in over those last few days before the deadline and so be prepared to review 10-12 by then.

**Chair Richard** indicated that an e blast will be going out to all PLG members as a follow up to the Feb.10<sup>th</sup> zoom meeting and he will include another friendly reminder at that time. **Ralston** also noted that he will be sending a friendly reminder to all 5 LG's in Jamaica tomorrow to ensure they get their nominees in, in a timely fashion.

**5.0 EC&C PLG 'Members Zoom Meeting' February 10th:**

**Chair Richard** indicated that 380 invites went out, going to all active PLG members, and we had 72 attend on the zoom call. Although the sentiment was not positive around the room, **Ralston** suggested that although we were not satisfied with the turnout, kudos should go out those who did attend. **Sec. Rick** has secured a zoom upgrade in anticipation of needing the room in the zoom link, but obviously it was not needed. **Chair Richard** noted that we need to maintain the flow of communication, ensure the membership stays informed if not engaged, eventually we trust their engagement will follow. We need to remind our membership of the PLG AGM to be at the DCON and their attendance is encouraged. We will be sending out a notice to remind them of that, asking them to consider what topics they might like to hear about at the AGM, and of course will they be attending.

**We discussed Next Steps;**

- **Chair Richard** has already had the opportunity to speak with the LG classes of both **Governor Cynthia** as well as **GE Sharon**, reinforcing in these members the need to be encouraging their respective clubs in the importance of succession planning from the new member up and not just speaking to the Past President's.
- **Ralston** spoke passionately of the successes in Jamaica, as they have no issues getting members to step up for higher office, in fact they have real elections with multiple candidates, which **Sec. Rick** shared has not been the case in Eastern Canada for years. This has been evident for years and was shared with envy by both **Chair Richard** as well as **Sec. Rick**.
- **Chair Richard** shared his awareness of the impact of K Kids on the Island clubs, these children's programs are everywhere...but not in Eastern Canada. This can be stated as another reason for the success of the Island clubs is their sincere passion for the SLP programs, especially the K Kids Program. **Sec. Rick** noted that this was not always the case. In his earlier years as a Kiwanian, **Rick** was quite involved with K Kids and Builders Club, in fact was the Kiwanis Advisor for multiple clubs and held the position of DA for Builders Club & K Kids for all of EC&C from 2001 to 2007 and saw the need to create the first Assistant DA position for Jamaica. The Islands flourished, but Eastern Canada wilted. The question remains – why?

**Rick** shares that not only do we not have a visible presence of K Kids in Eastern Canada, if we go to the District website the information on K Kids is simply an add on to the link for Builder's Club but nothing to really catch anyone's interest in reading more. We need to change the conversation.

- A healthy conversation continued on SLP; featuring Builders, Key Club and CKI and the need to be more engaged with our youth, starts with ensuring we have passionate youthful members who are at the lead of these groups.

#### **6.0 Update on our Q&A Issued to all PLG Members:**

**Chair Richard** shared we have pretty much gone through all of these concerns in the conversations above, but did ask **Sec. Rick** to expand on a conversation he had with **DT Mary Ellen Trimble** about the PLG award program.

That conversation focused on the need for the committee 'to consider' an award less onerous than the 5 year Ray Allen Award. The Ray Allen is important on its own, it focuses on the career of the PLG who excelled at all three aspects of Kiwanis, whereas we are at risk of losing many PLG members who between their term and 5 years are either dropping off or losing interest and simply staying on as a member but not really engaged. We need to reinvigorate those members.

**Mary Ellen** is asking us to consider something looking at an award focusing on the 2 year PLG, where the successful candidate continues to excel at their club activities, engaging with their community and mentoring their members.

**Sec. Rick** will follow up with **Mary Ellen** on this and start to work together on a Terms of Reference. Should she be willing, we will include her as our guest at our next meeting, where we can feature this as a subject for discussion by all into a form that we can present to the members at the AGM.

It was clear to all that we need to be encouraging the District Executive, from current Governor to candidates for the next Governor-Elect to be conveying to their classes the need to not lose sight of their membership, their challenges as well as their successes.

**Rick W.** spoke on our Item 6.3, and suggested that we focus our attention away from insisting on a defined PLG Committee in every Division, to a designated Divisional PLG Chair. That person should be the Immediate Past LG from each Division.

The discussion continued centred around that Division PLG Chair presenting a report at their quarterly DCM meetings as well as a 'CC' of that going to the District PLG Committee Secretary. This way we ensure we have a contact in each division, and a two-way conduit on activities. This will be added to our next agenda and work on a criteria for the Division PLG Chair to consider (i.e. who have you talked with this month, have you been chatting with your PP's, are there new members that you have introduced yourself to?)

#### **7.0 PLG Website: Update**

**Angelo** was absent tonight so we will defer our next website update until next meeting.

#### **8.0 New Business: None**

**9.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 via ZOOM (7:30PM Toronto time)**

**ADJOURNMENT: Garnell (8:41 PM)**