New Int’l Inner Wheel District formed

Mary Chin

KOTA KINABALU: After 34 years of togetherness, the decision to split International Inner Wheel (IIW) District 330 (covering Malaysia and Singapore) into two Districts was a painful one. There are 23 clubs in the District.

The resolution to divide the District was tabled at the Special Meeting of IIW District 330 during its recent 32nd Annual General Meeting held here. It was attended by outgoing IIW District 330 Chairman, Rokiah Staun from the Inner Wheel Club of Kota Kinabalu, incoming District Chairman, Juanita Lee from the Inner Wheel Club of Kuala Lumpur, the District Executive Committee and club delegates.

Staun said the move was in line with the 2011-2012 IIW Theme ‘Think Ahead­Aim High’.

“As such, the District Executive Committee had decided early in its term of office that District 330 should work towards the division of the District,” she said.

At the Special Meeting, voting was conducted and it was decided that another new District be formed consisting of Inner Wheel clubs in Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore.

“This means Inner Wheel District 330 will remain but will now consist of only clubs in Semenanjung Malaysia,” she said.

According to Staun, it was not an easy task for the Working Committee formed especially to look into the division.

“After all, the clubs in the District have been together for nearly 34 years and the sentimental attachment was strong. But in the same token, a period of 34 years is a long time for the District not to evolve.”

At this juncture, she expressed appreciation to Past IIW Board Member, Datin Joan Salheh, Past IIW Board Director, Jessie Wang, Past IIW Board Director, Datuk Nancy Ho, Past IIW Board Director, Rathy Mahendran and Past IIW National Representative, Dr Kim Ng for having gone out of their way to work with the District Executive Committee on the matter of the division.

“Undoubtedly, there will be many challenges for the new District. But we have to move forward collectively with a positive attitude in progressing towards our future,” Staun said.

However, looking at the bigger picture, she contended that creating a new District would facilitate smooth administration of the clubs.

The other argument for a division is that there must be at least two Districts in the region before a national governing body can be put in place whereby candidates from the Districts can be nominated to contest key posts in the International Inner Wheel (IIW) Board of Directors.

Whatever the case, Staun said based on the discussion before the voting process, it appeared that many Inner Wheel clubs were still not certain of their strengths to be in smaller Districts.

“Thus, one of our immediate tasks is for each club to increase its membership strength by inducting new members, particularly younger ones.”

According to her, the division of IIW District 330 will not take place with immediate effect because the application has to be forwarded to the International Inner Wheel Board of Directors for official approval.

“That will take some time,” she said.

Incoming Chairman of IIW District 330, Lee, is confident that Inner Wheel’s friendship, fellowship and service will not be jeopardised by the split.

She even invited the new District to a joint AGM and Fellowship Weekend in Kuala Lumpur next year when it will be her club’s (Inner Wheel Club of Kuala Lumpur) turn to host the 33rd AGM of IIW District 330.

“We are planning a very colourful and exciting weekend with the theme Gay Paree, and I encourage all of you to participate in this event,” she said.

Lee, who previously served as Vice-Chairman, is a Past President of the Inner Wheel Club of Kuala Lumpur. Her Sabah connection is that she did her secondary schooling at All Saints’ Secondary School before graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Malaya. Currently, she manages her own cosmetic enterprise which is a sole distributor of several French cosmetic products.

Others in the new line-up (2012-2013) : Immediate Past Chairman – Rokiah Staun; Vice-Chairman-Datin Seetha Lakshman (Inner Wheel Club of Klang); Secretary – Lee Lan Me (Inner Wheel Club of Kuala Lumpur); Treasurer – Ambika Ravi Menon (Inner Wheel Club of Petaling Jaya); District Extension Chairman – Datfa Pearl Jai Mohail (Inner Wheel Club of Bangsar); District International Service Organiser – Foong Pack (Inner Wheel Club of Kuala Lumpur); District Editor – Cheng Yok San (Inner Wheel Club of Ipoh East); and IIW National Representative – Ilah Reganathan.

For her tenure, Lee said she would focus on strengthening and nurturing the existing clubs, especially newly-formed clubs (Inner Wheel Club of Kuching, Sarawak & Inner Wheel Club of Kuala Lumpur City Centre).

“We need to inculcate the newer members with Inner Wheel ideals, values and philosophy. At the same time, we must stimulate our senior members to maintain their commitment, leadership and continuity,” she said.
Delegates of the 32nd AGM of IIW District 330 with the Minister of Community Development & Consumer Affairs, Datuk Hjh Azizah Mohd Dun (seated at centre).