The Bay Area Vision Chapter of the ABWA had a wonderful meeting in December at the group’s new location, Perry’s Italian Grill in Clear Lake City at 1001 Pineloch at Pineloch and El Camino Real.

While many members found that those busy holiday schedules interfered with attendance, the members who were able to attend left with glowing reports about how nice the restaurant itself was, how attentive the wait staff, and just how great the food.

After the usual formalities of the meeting, gifts were exchanged, but as usual the best gift of all was the one given by the individual members to children in need of gifts through Toys for Tots. Toys for Tots is a Reserve US Marine Corps effort to distribute new toys to children in need during the Christmas season. Started in 1948 by Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR, it has grown into an annual nationwide effort. The idea was actually started by Maj. Hendricks wife. She had made a Raggedy Ann doll and asked her husband to find an agency able to distribute it to a needy child. When he discovered that no such agency existed, Mrs. Hendricks urged the Major to start one. Since 1948 the Toys for Tots program has been nationwide. Our participation in this program allows us to achieve one of our goals of “helping others in our community.” It is always wonderful to put a smile on the face of a young child and a warm feeling in our own hearts!

With the additional room and ambience that Perry’s provides our group, now is the time to invite guests to visit.
More Pictures from the Christmas Party and our new meeting venue!!

(L-R) Members Bennie Nipper, Sherry Bogus, Carolyn Wagner and Lorilyn Wynn check out the new meeting space and have some fun!

Christmas Party attendees (l-r) Monica Oneal, Carolyn Wagner, Grace Torrijos, Carol Moore, Janice Cobb, Bennie Nipper, Lorilyn Wynn, Stacy Jenkins, and Sherry Bogus take time out to pose for the camera.

Bennie and Carol may be wondering what is in their Christmas gifts!

The stockings may not have been hung, but the gifts were certainly prepared!
ABWA Bay Area Vision Chapter #2533
Meeting Minutes December 10, 2008

In attendance: Monica O’Neal, Carolyn Wagner, Grace Torrijos, Janice Cobb, Carol Moore, Bennie Nipper, Lorilyn Wynn, Stacy Jenkins, Sherry Bogus

Meeting was brought to order at 11:45 am
Invocation was read
Introductions were made.

Old Business: We are changing our venue and meeting at Perry’s Italian Grill on Pineloch. Chapter dues – Janice needs a list so she can determine who has and has not paid.

Regarding Board meetings: we had voted on having our board meeting 2 weeks before the regular meeting. We had a board meeting 1 week prior our December meeting. Carolyn made a motion not to have a board meeting in January. Janice seconded the motion. There were no opposed and the motion carried.

Regarding Christmas adoption: we did not have enough time to research groups so we decided to donate to Toys for Tots.

Ads in newsletter – non colored….Do we want to go to a colored newsletter? We have decided to keep the newsletter online and not print it to keep costs down.

Meeting place: Perry’s has been good to us and we have a lovely place to meet! We chose three entrees from the menu. We tried to choose something for everyone.

In January we want to start the nomination process for WOY, WOE and Top 10 candidates. WOE and WOY are similar. We want someone who is active in our chapter, active in the community and well rounded. Top 10 candidate requirements are stringent. It needs to be a person who has climbed the ladder in her profession and has been an officer of the group.

Today’s meeting is meant to be fun and give us time to network with each other. We’ll be discussing our fund raiser. Beatrice has suggested that Perry’s may be able to cater our wine tasting. Angela may be able to get Wal-Mart to underwrite the cost for our event location. She is looking at the Endeavor. It is on the water and is a nice facility. More news on it in January. Tentative Wine Tasting date is April 16th, 2009.

Janice has Treasurer’s Report. Balance in Regions account is $541.86 and balance in Moody Bank account is $2720.00. Both figures are as of December 9th, 2008. Monica made a motion to accept the Treasurer report as presented; Stacy seconded the motion. No one opposed and the motion carried.

We had a drawing for tickets to Bay Harbour Playhouse donated by Bennie Nipper. Lorilyn and Carolyn won. Carolyn gave her tickets to Carol.

Rules of the gift exchange were explained. We played the game and lunch was served. Next meeting is a lunch meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of January.

The Benediction was read.
The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.
John C. Maxwell in his book *25 Ways to Win with People*, talks about memories he has created with his friends. Anyone can take a simple moment and share it so that it becomes memorable and meaningful. I can relate to his premise because of something that my husband and I have done since we met. David and I met through computer matching, long before computers and these systems had reached the sophistication they have today. After our first date, which was fun and went very well, David and I shook hands. It surprised me a bit that he was so reserved, but I liked it and he made me feel comfortable and unpressured. After our second date he gave me a sweet pat on the shoulder. Once again, I felt comfortable but thought surely it was about time after several really good hours talking together that maybe, just maybe, he might just give me a little peck on the cheek. The comfort zone paid off however. We were married within four weeks after we met and have been very happy for the last eighteen plus years. However now, David will often just reach out and shake my hand or pat me on the shoulder. His little smile speaks volumes and we always return to those wonderful memories of new love! It doesn’t cost a thing to create a memorable caring moment with family, friends or clients that can cement a good relationship.

Evelyn Garland