



**August 4 Speaker
Rick Wolfe**

Mavericks In
Education

Stephanie Fenton introduced our speaker, Richard Wolfe. Rick is the administrator of Mavericks High Pinellas, a new charter school located on the campus of Everest University on East Bay Drive at Highland Avenue in Largo. Rick has been in public education for over twenty years as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal. Prior to joining Mavericks, he was an education specialist with Eckerd Youth Alternatives in Clearwater.

Mavericks is a tuition-free charter school designed to improve the dropout rate of high school students in Pinellas County. It is a high tech high school that offers a cyber athletics program. Rick noted that our member, Susan Latvala, is the chairperson of the board of Mavericks in Pinellas.

Rick reported that every 13 seconds of a school day, a student will drop out of high school in this country. The graduation rate in Florida is 72.4%. In Pinellas, it is 63.7%. In Pasco, it is 73.7%. In Hillsborough, it is 79.1%. The Mavericks High in Pinellas is one of five opening this year, including Homestead, North Miami Beach, Osceola County, and Miami. It is focused solely on dropout recovery. It recruits its student through contacting students who have dropped out, grass roots outreach, referrals from service providers and referrals from other students.

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**Today's Agenda
August 11, 2009**

**Invocation – Ann Kennedy
Pledge of Allegiance
Joke of the Day
Introduction of Guests
Happy Bucks and 50/50
Announcements**

**Guest Speaker – Jackie Silver
Aging Backwards**

Upcoming Speakers

**8/18 June Wallace
Human Trafficking**

**8/25 Doug Palonder
St. Petersburg Bowl**

**9/1 Vinnie Luisi
Dunedin Historical Museum**

**9/8 Rosa Rodriguez
Literacy**

Upcoming Invocations

8/18 Pat Bauer

8/25 Kevin Donohue

9/1 Nora Mihopoulos

9/8 Lynn Wargo

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Based on solid research, the school is designed to have a different look and feel than a traditional school. It has four learning levels instead of grades: Level 1-Essentials, Level 2-Foundation, Level 3-Completion, and Level 4-Advanced. Open to those ages 15 through 21, it has a flexible schedule, with 4-hour classroom sessions in morning, afternoon and evening. Students earn a high school diploma, learn job preparation skills and can plan for college. Each teacher is a mentor and has a caseload of 10 students. The school hopes to open with 400 students and expand to 550 students next year. The 4 measures of success are: academic achievement, work/study skills, social/emotional wellbeing, and self-sufficiency. School starts on August 25th.

Summary of August 4 Meeting

Happy Bucks

Ray Kingsbury, just because he was happy.

Mark Brandt

Jeff Rhoads, for his trip to Montgomery, Alabama. It was hotter there than here. He was not in town to repossess a car, but to buy some.

50/50

Jeff Rhoads had the winning number of 973307. He did not get the King of Hearts, but did announce that he was passing around the joke sign-up sheet and expected everyone to sign up early and often.

Announcements:

President Carole announced that Ernie Wartenberg has additional “The Future of Rotary is In Your Hands” pins.

Carole sent out an e-mail last week for a local *Stop Hunger Now* project on August 15, 2009. This is a project that she learned about at the district conference in St. Augustine. In involved assembling a packet of food, and is sponsored by the Rotary Club of East Lake Sunrise. Information at mariz@tampabay.rr.com.

Carole asked the club members if they would be interested in continuing our visioning session by having a potluck supper in someone’s home to concentrate on goal setting. The idea was received favorably and a meeting will be scheduled for September.

President Carole mentioned she had received thank-you letters from the scholarship recipients.

Guests:

Gus Evans introduced Paul Gorka, a potential new member.

Pete Krulder introduced three members of the Clearwater East Rotary Club: Barbara Pauley, Wayne Roberts and its President, Diane Sharp.

Pete Krulder also introduced Teresa Cordoba O’Dea, the better half of the O’Dea family, from the Dunedin North Rotary Club.