

Inventors COUNCIL

OF MID-MICHIGAN

PO Box 232, Lennon Michigan 48449

Web Site: INVENTORSCOUNCIL.ORG

The Inventors Council is an independent, non-profit 501 C-3 corporation formed to help inventors pursue their dreams of bringing new and innovative products to market. Our goal is to help fellow inventors succeed in the most efficient and least costly manner possible by providing education and business networking.

Founded by Robert (Bob) Ross in 1995

We meet monthly at Walli's Restaurant, 1341 South Center Road Burton, Michigan. Just Two blocks south of I-69, Exit 139

VOLUME FIFTEEN

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2011, 7:00PM

NUMBER ONE

January 13, 2011 Meeting

After the election is complete, we want to share some of the ideas the new board will be dealing with in the 2011 years. As well, as some ideas which are carried over from 2010, We will be looking for new ideas from all the members in attendance.

Ongoing and new efforts are:

Networking with other organizations

Finding speakers for the 2011 year

Improving our meeting notices with newspapers, other clubs and groups.

Work with the UIA for better training

Obtain a new computer with web cam and transmission capabilities.

Increase ties with local business, government, and educational organizations.

"Circle of Trust"

We are still seeking names of service providers to add to our Circle of Trust. We are looking for machinists, model makers, mold makers, prototype makers, CAD Designers, engineers, marketing, packaging people, production houses, tooling, and individuals or companies that will work with small inventors. We want people and companies we can trust to work with our inventors. Trust and honesty are the key elements. Help us build the best network in the state to help inventors build their products.

Happy New Year Inventors !!!!!!!

Election Candidates for ICMM Board of Directors

There are 11 candidates for 8 positions on the Board of Directors ballot.

Candidates are: (in Alphabetical Order)

Michael Ball

William Brabenec

James Harris

Ron Kilponen

Mary Korbyban

Rick Mason

Michael Readwin

Martin Sovis

Roger Stolpin

Cullen Tate

Michael Wiley

The election will take place at the regular Membership meeting. Members will be given a paper ballot to vote for 8 of 11 of the candidates.

The top 8 vote getters will be elected to the ICMM Board of Directors for 2011.

The ballots will be counted and the results presented at the meeting.

It will be a busy night with our new leadership in place for the 2011 calendar year.

Please attend and make your vote count and help us grow and assist others in our community.



MARKETING

Hints from the Fog
by Mike Ball, President



Inventors helping Inventors

In order to help new inventors, we must be able to give them concrete things to do to bring their ideas to market. That does not mean doing the work for them, but helping them know what to do, where to go, who to see, and when and in what order to do things.

We will do this by continuing our training series during the year giving our members and visitors real life training in the inventing process.

We will be looking to train our inventors in processes like filing for a patent, trademark, and copyright. They will then be the club specialist in that subject and be provided with documents to give to other members or visitors who have questions on specific tasks to perform. The what, when, where, who, when, etc. of inventing .

It is my hope that we will train many members to be a club specialist in a certain subject. This will make our club a value added service for the inventors.

It will still be up to each inventor to do their own work, but at least they will have an idea of where to go to find the service or information.

Our club networking with each other needs to be improved. We have a tremendous knowledge base in the ICMM, but we don't talk enough with each other and our visitors.

We probably have the most organized and trained Inventors Club in the area, but we must share our knowledge with others. All our people are volunteers and we are a 501C-3 educational charity. Now we must now share our knowledge with others who are wanting to make their dreams and ideas a reality.

We have the people, organization, knowledge, training, experience, processes, and equipment to deliver real practical help to people that are willing to work on their ideas. We just need to network better with others and do our part to help the people of Michigan.

I am calling on every member to step up and volunteer to be part of the new 2011 Inventors Council of Mid-Michigan and make this one of the best inventor clubs in the nation.

We are inventors helping inventors.

The Events on the following page(s) are listed to try to help our inventors and friends of ICMM club to network and learn from other organizations and resources. Share these with your friends and attend an event that will help you take your invention (product) to market or start your business.

Invention Review Panel

For objective evaluation and priceless feedback, share your invention ideas with an educated group of inventors, business owners, engineers and authors!

Our Panel will sign a non-disclosure agreement to guarantee your ideas are kept secret while we provide you with the input needed to make decisions, no matter what stage of the invention process you're at!

There is a \$25.00 Donation for a review. ThePanel meets at 6:00 pm before each-meeting. Call Panel Chairman Marty Sovis at 810-659-6741 for an appointment.

Review Panel Members
Marty Sovis Rick Mason
Jim White Mike Wiley

Bob Ross 1919 - 2004 Inventors Education Column

Club Events Coming Up

Looking for names to put in our "Circle of Trust" initiative. These include CAD designers, prototype builders, graphic artists , machinists, seamstresses, woodworkers, etc. Give the names to Mike Ball or Marty Sovis.

Sourcing Expert Needed

A Thomas.net sourcing expert that will help people find parts, materials, products used to build inventions. This is critical to saving money when a product or component already exists. Are you experienced in this ? Let us know.

Officers And Directors

Mike Ball
President
810-245-5599
michaelball@
turbousa.com

Roger Stolpin
Director
248-634-2129
Finite-007@att.net

Marty Sovis
Secretary/Treasurer
810-659-6741
msovis@
comcast.net

Mike Wiley
Vice President
810-691-4451
mwiley1111@
aol.com

Mike Readwin
Director
810-240-6472
Mikereadwin
@gmail.com

Ron Kilponen
Legal
248-344-7132
kilponen@
bignet.net

Rick Mason
Director
810-659-7935
xyzmason
@aol.com

Mary Gavin
Director
586-939-3993
mgmary939
@aol.com

Jim Harris
Membership
810-621-3468
harris03@
charter.net

Bill Brabenec
Director
810-724-2722
brab@
tir.com

A 501-C-3
All-Volunteer
Corporation

More Events for our Inventors (Opportunity to educate, grow, and network)

January Conferences and Expos

Annual Collaboration for Entrepreneurship - ACE'11. Plan to attend the 11th anniversary of ACE on Monday, **January 31**. Network with 1,000+ members of the entrepreneurial community. The program features a keynote presentation by Chuck Newman, president/CEO of ReCellular; an elevator pitch competition with emcee Chris Holman and six entrepreneurs presenting three-minute pitches; interactive workshops; entrepreneurial company displays, and presentation of the GLEQ Business Plan Competition Awards. GLEQ participants must be present or represented at the event to win an award. Details: Monday, **January 31**, 2-9 p.m., Skyline High School, 2552 North Maple Road, Ann Arbor - <http://www.ace-event.org/>

Deadlines Coming Up

ACE'11 Elevator Pitch Competition. Register Today. This is your chance to get in front of 1,000+ attendees as ACE celebrates its 11th year on Monday, **January 31**. Register now for a display table (the cost goes up as the event date approaches) and a chance to be selected for the **ACE'11** Elevator Pitch Competition. During this fast-paced competition with emcee Chris Holman, six entrepreneurs present three-minute pitches to win awards and services. The competition is a highlight of this annual event. *You must be registered for an entrepreneur display table to be selected.* Use this link to register for a display table: <http://ace-event.org/signup.aspx>. Learn more about the event at <http://www.ace-event.org/>.

"I Love Michigan" Video Competition, \$2,500 Top Prize/Submission Deadline Extended. The competition is designed to spur creativity and artistry throughout Michigan as entrants create videos that tell a story of why they love our state. Videos can last up to 10 minutes and should be clever, engaging, and innovative. Creativity is encouraged. A panel of Michigan leaders will select the top 10 videos for final consideration. These top 10 entries will then be voted on by the general public at the Prima Civitas Foundation's website to select the top 3 videos. Deadline: Monday, **January 31**, midnight - <http://www.primacivitas.org/>

Opportunities for Entrepreneurs

Momentum 2011. Apply Today. Momentum is a venture incubator that provides seed capital, intellectual capital, and extensive mentorship to internet start-ups. Momentum is looking for great ideas and new technology and it's creating reasons for you to stay in Michigan. Momentum makes a small investment (\$20K) in your venture for a small stake (8%) in your new company. Your team resides in West Michigan for 12 weeks while you have support to develop and launch your product, refine your business strategy, and connect with investors and resources to quickly accelerate your product to market. The application period opened **November 4**. For additional information e-mail Amanda@momentum-mi.com, or visit <http://www.momentum-mi.com/>.

NEF - Prepare Your Pitch. If you're an entrepreneur seeking funding or other resources, New Enterprise Forum can match you with a coaching team and an opportunity to pitch your ten-minute investor presentation to the NEF audience of entrepreneurs and investors. To be considered, contact me at diane@gleq.org. Your NEF coaching team will prepare you to make a polished investor presentation. Get ready for pitch opportunities at Michigan Growth Capital Symposium, Accelerate Michigan -- and other events. Learn more at <http://www.newenterpriseforum.org/>.

Blue Water Angels - Boost Michigan. Be one of the early-stage entrepreneurs selected to present to angel and venture capital investors this winter at a Boost Michigan. "Boosts" are informal Pitch Night opportunities to get in front of coaches and mentors that will help you prepare for investor presentations. You'll talk about your business for two minutes and have the chance to win an impromptu Advisory Board dinner -- and the opportunity to present to Blue Water Angels and other investors. Upcoming Boost events are scheduled for **January 12**, in Midland and **March 9**, Flint. Check the GLEQ website for details at <http://www.gleq.org/> or e-mail contact@gleq.org. For information on Blue Water Angels, contact Chris Moultrup at the MidMichigan Innovation Center, moultrup@mmic.us or 989-839-2336.

New Member Networking Event. If your company has become an Automation Alley member within the past year, join us for this new member networking event. Introduce your company to new and existing members, begin building relationships within the Alley and hear a quick overview of your membership benefits. This invitation is open to all employees of your company. Details: Wednesday, **January 12**, 8-10 a.m., Automation Alley Resource Center, 2675 Bellingham, Troy - http://www.automationalley.com/a2_nws_eventcal?m=1&y=2011

Marketing your GSA Products. The PTAC of Schoolcraft College will host GSA contractors for a morning of instruction and conversation regarding marketing GSA products and/or services to the federal government. The morning will consist of a presentation by facilitator Mike Klewicki followed by a roundtable discussion of specific issues that companies are facing. The focus will be on finding new federal customers and increasing contract sales. This event is intended for companies that currently hold a GSA Schedule Contract and wish to learn more about marketing their schedule and company to government agencies. Details: Wednesday, **January 12**, 8:30 am.-noon, Schoolcraft College-VistaTech Center, 18600 Haggery Rd., Livonia - http://www.automationalley.com/a2_nws_eventcal?m=1&y=2011

Fundamentals of Writing a Business Plan. Designed for those who want to increase the chances for business success, the business plan seminar covers the specifics of business planning including market research, marketing, finance, legal, operations, and management. Tools and steps for creating a business plan draft will be included. For startup businesses, before attending this workshop it is highly recommended to attend the free Fundamentals of Starting a Business seminar that is offered each month. Details: Monday, **January 17**, 9 a.m.-noon, MI-SBTDC Region 6 Office - Counseling & Training Site, Kettering University, Campus Center, Flint - <http://www.misbtdc.net/events.aspx>

Google AdWords Success Workshop. Our course is a one-day workshop that provides winning, proven principles that will help you succeed in Pay Per Click management, regardless of whether you're a beginner who hasn't set up an AdWords account, or a seasoned professional with years of experience. In addition, you will have hands-on experience with pay per click account management, receive training materials, and get the opportunity to network with others interested in pay per click. Speaker: Megan Zlatos. Attendees must bring a laptop computer with wireless connectivity. Details: Thursday, **January 20**, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Pure Visibility, 912 N. Main St., Ann Arbor- Registration is required - http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.eventbrite.com%2Fevent%2F1091672221&ust=1293598670203000&usq=AFQjCNE8CMhUw7KaD_2POHVkiI418zUWUSW