

# 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

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NEXT MEETING THURSDAY June 12 2014 7:00PM

NUMBER SIX

## **Thursday June 12, 2014 Meeting**

The meeting will begin at 7:00pm at Walli's as usual in the upstairs conference room.

We have a guest speaker, Andrew Droz, of Droz Consulting in Metamora, Michigan.

Andrew consults in telecom, mobility, web marketing as well as other mediums.

He has experience in EBAY marketing with how to make successful sales and protecting your sales against unfair returns and charges.

Come enjoy his presentation and learn how to use EBAY effectively with selling your inventions.

See you all there Thursday night.

## **Thursday May 8, 2014 Meeting**

We had a guest speaker via Skype that failed to connect, but we worked on actual steps that one of our inventors used to successfully launch his inventions. We then worked on networking with the audience to work on issues to solve their methods to make progress.

It was a great time with other inventors

Let's talk about the Inventors Council of Mid Michigan you attend each month.

We were founded by Bob Ross, a SCORE volunteer, in February 1997 and are the longest continuing operating inventors club in Michigan. Bob was 76 years old when he started this club to help people be able to bring their ideas and dreams to market.

It was just an idea, but Bob was a believer in people and was a true volunteer who wanted to make his community better.

I did not know Bob, but we still have members who did. They still talk about his vision and service to the club.

Bob wanted to help people, not take advantage of them. The biggest message he always delivered was "have fun while you are inventing". Our club is still based on this simple message.

In 2003 we became a 501-C3 Non-Profit Educational Charity. We want to help people who have an idea they are passionate about. We do not do the work for them. We help guide them in the steps they need to take to be successful at the least cost and best return, and protect them from companies that will take advantage of them by telling them what they want to hear. (As long as they are paying for the advice)

We do not take or sell anyone's invention ideas. When members and visitors sign in at our meetings, they are agreeing to an NDA on the form. We have never had an idea stolen from a meeting of ICMC.

**ICMM  
Home of the Happy Inventors**



## MARKETING

Hints from the Fog  
by Mike Ball, President



We have made many organizational changes to the ICMM in the last 5 years, but we still operate on the same idea Bob Ross had to make meetings educational, interesting and fun.

We remain an action based inventors club with our concentration on research, design, engineering, manufacturing, and marketing in a cost effective low risk method. Many inventors have done it, but it takes discipline and networking to make it happen.

We conduct training of actual inventing processes. We conduct Product Reviews of inventors ideas. We don't criticize the product idea, but the process all inventions require. We give honest assessments of the steps they are at currently. Our Review Process is detailed and documented, but it is a true assessment of where the inventor is at. The Review Board is operated by our members and requires a lot of their time to read and prepare for the Review. They do this for free and are what defines this club's spirit of service to the community.

We network with other organizations and clubs to help our inventors receive support for other community resources. We have trusted suppliers who will work with starting inventors and not take advantage of them. We only recommend these suppliers to an inventor when they are ready for that step.

Some people are always skeptical and are looking to be taken advantage of, but later tell us that they can't believe there is a group of people who do this work for free. I agree, the spirit of helping people lives in ICMM.

It still operates on the vision Bob Ross founded it on. Inventing should be fun first and work later. We salute Bob Ross and what he has done for the Community and many individuals who owe him a debt of thanks.

If you have an idea you want help with, let us know and we will try to help. The ICMM is a 501C charity formed to help each other, not a profit making operation.

## 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's a \$25.00 Donation for a Review. The Panel meets at 6:15pm before each meeting. Call Panel Chairman Rick Mason at 810-659-7935 for an appointment.

Review Panel Members  
Marty Sovis Rick Mason  
Jim White

**Bob Ross 1919 - 2004**  
*Inventors Education Column*

## *Inventors Resources*

**Michigan Inventors Clubs**  
Inventors Council of Mid-Michigan  
[Inventorscouncil.org](http://Inventorscouncil.org)

**Muskegon Inventors Network**  
[Muskegoninventorsnetwork.org](http://Muskegoninventorsnetwork.org)

**Grand Rapids Inventors Network**  
[GRinventorsnetwork.org](http://GRinventorsnetwork.org)

**Jackson Inventors Network**  
[Jacksoninventors.org](http://Jacksoninventors.org)

**MidMichigan Innovation Center**  
[www.mmic.us](http://www.mmic.us)

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