

Inventors COUNCIL

OF MID-MICHIGAN

PO Box 311, Flushing, Michigan 48433

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 EIGHTEEN

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2015 7:00PM

NUMBER ELEVEN

Thursday November 12 2015 Meeting

We will be talking and voting on some issues from the Board of Directors meeting.

We will be working with members on their inventions and networking with each other.

Come and network and learn from others.

See you all at 7:00 pm for a fun night of learning and helping each other.

Dues and Elections for 2016

ICMM has maintained the dues at \$55.00 per year for full membership. If you pay before January 1, 2016 the fee will be only \$50.00 for the year.

Daily monthly meetings for visitors will still be \$ 5.00 at the door to help pay the rent.

2016 Board of Directors election will be held in January 2016 first membership meeting. All members are able to run for office. You must apply to run and we will be sending out the info in December.

ICMM
Home of the Happy Inventors

“It is easy to be a critic, but hard to be a cook.”

This is one of my favorite sayings. When people are criticizing your invention, just ask to see theirs, so you can learn. Of course, they never invent anything you can see, touch, or use. They are all critics not inventors.

I get that all the time with the novels I write. They usually say I should hire an editor so I could improve my writing. Most are ex-school teachers or work in book stores and have never read one of my books. They have certainly never written a book. It is easy to criticize any product, but what counts is what the people who buy your invention think.

I want to take the time to talk about our club. This club was founded by a SCORE member, Bob Ross. I never knew Bob as he passed away just before I joined ICCM. He saw a need to help people work on their ideas and inventions. He was a great guy as many in this club can testify. He helped many people and laid the foundation for other clubs to get started.

ICMM is oldest Inventor club operating in the State of Michigan. We are second oldest in the nation after the Minnesota Inventors Network. We have Bob Ross to thank for that accomplishment.



MARKETING

Hints from the Fog
by Mike Ball, President



I joined ICMM in 2004. Jim White was President at the time. In 2007 I was elected President and have served the last eight years.

We have been meeting at Walli's since then. We meet here because they let us rent a room and we can buy food and drinks. The colleges were always changing the rules and we had to move often.

When I started, the budget was zero and we had no equipment or assets. We started cutting cost by going to an electronic newsletter and purchasing only 30 paper copies for less than \$10 per meeting.

We instituted a two signature purchasing system and required receipts for everything the ICMM bought. We collected money at the door for visitors and gave a discount for paying the dues early.

We purchased a laptop, a projector, white board, speakers, suitcase to bring all the equipment to each meeting and hooked directly to Walli's WiFi and used Skype to bring in speakers.

We formed networks with the E-Team, Veterans, Mott colleges, Thumb Works, GLEC, and other inventors clubs.

We instituted training programs to teach our inventors how to develop their inventions and help them understand how to make sure the invention would make money "before" you made a product. We did group projects for the group to work on and networked and shared ideas to get members products on the market.

We updated our website (inventorscouncil.org) to include all our newsletters, contact names and other organizations that help our inventors. We added a new product page and list our members products on the website.

We are now well organized and accountable for everything we do.

We have new directors and helpers and the club is well run and effective.

Special thanks to Marty Sovis for keeping our books and minutes and filing our 501C and maintaining our by laws. To Jim White for maintaining our website and updating the products for members. To Rick Mason for leading the Product Review system. I consider it the best value of anything we do here. Rick, Marty, and Jim White do a fantastic job. All our directors, and helpers are to be thanked for a job well done.

I will be 70 years old this week and will not run for office again, but I will remain a member and attend when I can. Thank all of you for your friendship and efforts and this club will carry on just fine with the new leaders.

Goodbye and good luck. Mike

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

Muskegon Inventors Network
Muskegoninventorsnetwork.org

Grand Rapids Inventors Network
GRinventorsnetwork.org

Jackson Inventors Network
Jacksoninventors.org

MidMichigan Innovation Center
ww.mmic.us

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