

Inventors COUNCIL

OF MID-MICHIGAN

P. O. Box 311, Flushing, Michigan 48433

www.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 by providing education and business networking.

Founded by Robert (Bob) Ross in 1995

We meet on the second Thursday of every month at:
Walli's Restaurant, 1341 S. Center Rd Burton, Michigan
Two blocks south of I-69 at Exit 139

Volume 2017

Next Meeting Thursday, January 12, 2017 - 7:00 pm

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Inventor Resources

Officers & Directors

President: Marty Sovis 810-659-6741
msovis@comcast.net

Vice-Pres: Mary Kordyban 313-481-1391
mkordyban1@gmail.com

Sec/Treas: Rick Mason 810-659-7935
xyzmason@aol.com

Director: Mike Wiley
mwiley1111@aol.com

Director: Dwayne Towns
dbl.towns@gmail.com

Director: Ken Yee 586-596-4137
gmadesign@comcast.net

Michigan Inventor Clubs

Grand Rapids Inventors Network
www.grinventorsnetwork.org

Inventors Council of Mid-Michigan
www.inventorscouncil.org

Jackson Inventors Network
www.jacksoninventors.org

MidMichigan Innovation Center
www.mmic.us

Muskegon Inventors Network
www.muskegoninventorsnetwork.org

Inventors Association of Metro Detroit
www.inventoriamd.org

Lansing Inventors Network
www.facebook.com/LansingInventorsNetwork

Upcoming Events:

- MiQuest January Calendar of Events: www.MiQuest.org
- SBDC workshops available: <https://clients.sbdcmichigan.org/events.aspx>
- U of M Flint is offering "5 Steps to Start Up" . Go to www.go.umflint.edu/IN for information.
- www.5x5night.com Pitch competition in Muskegan – January 24th.
- For Michigan Start-ups. Remember January 26th . [17th Annual Collaboration for Entrepreneurship \(ACE'17\)!](#) Advance tickets \$25.00

January Agenda:

- Election of Board Members – 3 seats available for 2 year term. Only members in good standing are eligible for seat and to vote.
- Guest Speaker: **Denise Sylvester**, Midwest Regional Outreach Officer - **United States Patent And Trademark Office**.
- Discussion on 5x5night
- Discussion on ACE '17
- Annual Membership dues can be paid at start of meeting.

Minutes of December Meeting:

- Financial Report by Rick Mason
- Christmas Dinner was paid for members
- Non-members joined in Christmas Dinner at their own expense
- Quick review and handout of our hallmark "Steps in the Invention Process"
- Inventors Books were raffled off.
- Election of Officers in January was – Consider tossing your name in the hat.
- Discount for 2017 early membership
- End of year Discussion and Networking

ICMM

Home of the Happy Inventors

Invention Review Panel

For an objective evaluation and priceless feedback, present your invention ideas to 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 input you need to make decisions during the stages of getting your product to market.

We ask for a \$25.00 donation for non-members. The Panel meets at 6:00 pm prior to each meeting. You must e-mail our Panel Chairman Rick Mason to request a Pre-evaluation form and schedule a time. xyzmason@aol.com

President's Note

Happy New Year to all:

To start the new year, let's look at a major hurdle to getting a product to market. Initially, what does keep someone from moving their product forward to completion? Most often it's procrastination or maybe even laziness. The idea moves from the "bar napkin" to a sketch, maybe even a proto-type is made. Now there are several things that need to follow and they can be done simultaneously; so the indecision creeps in on what to do first. Throw in the tasks of daily life, like getting to work, cleaning the house, getting the car serviced, etc., and soon these simultaneous tasks take a back burner.

I just read a book by New York TIMES Bestselling Author Matthew Kelly called "Resisting Happiness". Kelly calls the reason for procrastinating or indecision "resistance". Resistance is that sluggish feeling of not wanting to do something that you know is good for you. It's the inclination to do something that you know is **not** good for you. It's the desire and tendency to delay something you should be doing right now. It is resistance that stands between you and happiness. And in our case, happiness is getting that invention to market. Kelly starts out with a good example:

The alarm clock goes off. It's time to get out of bed. This is your first decision of the day. Will you get out of bed or hit the snooze button? You press the snooze button and roll over. What just happened? No big deal, right? Wrong! You just lost the first battle of the day. Resistance just kicked your butt. Resistance has broken your will before you've even gotten out of bed. You will most likely be its slave for the rest of the day.

Kelly goes on to say how you will fight Resistance all your life and the only way to quit being your own worst enemy is to discipline yourself to get things done in a timely matter. He says, "Imagine all the books that are unwritten because of resistance. I wonder if Mozart or Beethoven had an unwritten symphony, or if Picasso and Monet died with their greatest work inside them because of resistance. I wonder how many diseases have not been cured because resistance got between the scientist and the cure. **I wonder how many things never got invented because inventors succumbed to resistance.**"

So for these "simultaneous things" that need to be done to move an invention forward, one needs to list and complete them in a timely fashion. Our founder, Bob Ross always said to spend at least 5 minutes everyday on your idea. He said the continuous familiarity with your idea in your mind will help you sort out what needs to be done and when to do them. Mike Ball is a heavy proponent of using the "Dry Erase Board". I carry a digital recorder so I can blast an idea or reminder to myself to keep things moving. Any way to stimulate yourself so you don't sabotage your progress with "resistance" is a plus. You may even use the Provisional Patent Application as an incentive; now you've started the clock and have to complete your idea in 12 months.

Now maybe those people who come to inventor groups with an idea and expect someone to pick up on it and complete it for them, just may not have a good way to combat resistance. Use your Inventors Councils to guide you on the steps to take and in what order to take them; even recommending where to go for assistance in a particular step. But, unless you are going to sell or license your product, you need to realize you need the drive to complete it yourself.

Remember to have fun with your invention!