

# INVENTORS COUNCIL OF MID-MICHIGAN

P. O. Box 311, Flushing, Michigan 48433

[www.inventorscouncil.org](http://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, February 9, 2017 - 7:00 pm

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## ***Inventor Resources***

### **Officers & Directors**

President: Marty Sovis 810-659-6741  
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Director: James White 517-381-1960  
[jimsicmm@inventorhome.com](mailto:jimsicmm@inventorhome.com)

### **Michigan Inventor Clubs**

Grand Rapids Inventors Network  
[www.grinventorsnetwork.org](http://www.grinventorsnetwork.org)

Inventors Council of Mid-Michigan  
[www.inventorscouncil.org](http://www.inventorscouncil.org)

Jackson Inventors Network  
[www.jacksoninventors.org](http://www.jacksoninventors.org)

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

Muskegon Inventors Network  
[www.muskegoninventorsnetwork.org](http://www.muskegoninventorsnetwork.org)

Inventors Association of Metro Detroit  
[www.inventoriamd.org](http://www.inventoriamd.org)

Lansing Inventors Network  
[www.facebook.com/LansingInventorsNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/LansingInventorsNetwork)

ICMM

Home of the Happy Inventors

### **Upcoming Events:**

- North Side Soup Micro-grants  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXmINnWAGpw>
- Michigan Inventors Network Expo – scheduled for Sept 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>
- Jumpstart 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference – May 11, 2017
- UofM Flint Innovation Incubator Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> [www.go.umflint.edu/5steps](http://www.go.umflint.edu/5steps)
- MiQuest February Calendar of Events: [www.MiQuest.org](http://www.MiQuest.org)
- SBDC workshops available: <https://clients.sbdcmichigan.org/events.aspx>
- National source for Inventor Education [www.uiausa.org](http://www.uiausa.org)

### **February Agenda:**

- E-team update
- Congratulations to new Board Members and Officers
- Report on ACE' 17
- Update on this years MIC Expo 9/15 & 9/16
- Guest Speaker – Inventor Education Podcast on licensing your product to Major League Teams

### **Minutes of January Meeting:**

- E-team and Financial Report by Rick Mason
- Discussion on 5x5night.com by Rick
- ACE 17 discussion by Marty
- Our Guest Speaker was Denise Sylvester from the Midwest Regional Outreach office of the United States Patent and Trademark office in Detroit. She covered Provisional and non-provisional applications, Trademarks, Trade Secrets, and the changes resulting from the America Invents Act. Denise talked of the difference between Design and Utility patents, and that copyrights are submitted to the Library of Congress. Interested members made this an interactive Q&A period. Our thanks to Denise for her knowledgeable presentation.
- Networking

### **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](mailto:xyzmason@aol.com)

### **President's Note**

Years ago when I first started working on my first patent, I received direction that now is completely invalid. Believe it or not I mailed a letter to myself explaining my idea along with the signatures of a couple of my friends who could verify the date. I used two people because I believe in "over-kill" and if I would need to go to court, I could hit my opponent with double barrels. I also bought a bookkeeper's "bound" book with numbered pages so I could track my every step. I would even draw diagonal lines through a page I didn't finish. This, of course, was when the U. S. Patent Office issued patents to "the first to invent", and I wanted to make sure I had my ducks in a row. Well since the United States has now joined other countries in granting patents to "the first to file" everything I had done then is worthless. I still keep that letter, though, as a reminder of how I need to be vigilant of changes that can occur and change my direction. I actually like that part of the America Invents Act of first to file, because now you don't have to worry about someone stealing your idea. That is, unless you share it with someone who files before you do. But that is where I like to emphasize how good it is to file a Provisional Patent Application. Since you can file it yourself at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) it is relatively easy to protect yourself and eliminate the worry. OK, I will confess that my mother always called me a "worry wart" (whatever that means) but I would tell her "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". And that brings me to why I shared this thought this month.

In reviewing a lot of correspondence, books, and magazines on inventing, I noticed a lot of articles had been written explaining the way to secure your idea back in the old days. The thought hit me that the writers had to get their article published so they could reap the benefits of their writings. Had they held back trying to perfect the wording, making everything perfect, their idea would be outdated and worthless before it reached press. That is the same thing that can happen to an inventor who spends too much time trying to perfect an idea instead of getting it out there for the customer to help develop it. OK, those who know me will say, "here it comes", and yes, get something made and "sell it to someone other than your mother". This will not only give you the assurance that you have an idea someone will want, but you will get feedback on how to perfect it and develop those idiosyncrasies that make your idea unique. Now you can move your product along a lot faster before another product takes the country by storm. So, get that idea of the "bar napkin", put it on paper with dimensions, do the design, and start going. With a provisional application filed, you can share your product with anyone that you need to get it to market. The best thing is, you're on a roll, and that is the best way to get things done.

Remember to have fun with your invention!