

# 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 2018

Next Meeting Thursday, February 08, 2018 - 7:00 pm

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### *Inventor Resources*

#### **Officers & Directors**

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#### **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](https://www.facebook.com/LansingInventorsNetwork)

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- IGA - Inventor Groups of America – April 17-19 National Conference and pitch to Congressional Staff for patent reform in Washington D.C.  
[www.inventleader.org](http://www.inventleader.org)
- MiQuest February Calendar of Events: [www.MiQuest.org](http://www.MiQuest.org)
- Upcoming Small Business Trainings in Flint  
<https://clients.sbdcmichigan.org/workshop.aspx?key=60380003>
- National source for Inventor Education [www.uiausa.org](http://www.uiausa.org)
- MTC Expo – San Diego, April 24-26 [www.mtcshow.com](http://www.mtcshow.com)
- Big Resources for Small Business [www.bizboxmichigan.org](http://www.bizboxmichigan.org)
- Inventor Showdown – March 4<sup>th</sup> Inventor pitch  
[www.mycoolinventions.com](http://www.mycoolinventions.com) Plug your idea.

#### **February Agenda:**

- Michigan Inventors Coalition – Initial Draft of September Summit
- Update on Inventor Groups of America Conference in D.C.
- New Guidelines for Chamber of Commerce Entrepreneur Team
- Inventor Pitch on My Cool Inventions radio
- Get your product on the Michigan Inventors Coalition webpage
- Webcast replaces guest speakers during winter
- Update on members' products
- Networking

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

- Election of three new Board Members:  
Elected – John Tracy, Re-elected – Dwayne Towns, Ken Yee
- Board elected Ken Yee Vice-President  
Re-elected Rick Mason Sec/Treasurer, Marty Sovis President
- Covered inventor related correspondence
- Webcast replaced speaker series during winter
- Networking
- Cookies and Coffee

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](mailto:xyzmason@aol.com)

### **President's Note**

This month I want to expand on what we discussed last month but go in depth a little on some of the events going on in the country that can benefit our membership. First of all, I want to stress that you take the ten steps to getting your product to market in the proper order and reach out for help at any step as you go. You can ask, if you don't already know, whether you have the necessary IP protection. If you have your ducks in a row, these events or the information you get from them can be beneficial to marketing skills and exposure of your product.

Contact information is listed on the front page under "Upcoming Events".

- Meet the buyer: These are annual events sponsored by various organizations that introduce manufacturers to Government buyers, whether Local, State, or Federal. Some of the well-known are VetBiz Central, PTAC, NVBDC, and SBA. I will forward information as I receive their schedules and will discuss more at our meeting.
- My Cool Inventions Radio is affiliated with various cable TV and radio affiliates. I've talked often of the free exposure you get by signing up for their interview on the radio. They are working to move to the next level with "Inventor Showdown" in March. Check out their website.
- MTC Expo in San Diego: "Media, Technology, and Commerce". I know this is across the country, but it is a good example of major events that help launch products and teach the skills of marketing. And if you're planning a trip to the west coast, you may want to schedule around this Expo in April.
- Michigan Inventors Coalition Summit – In preliminary stages but the date and venue have been set. We will cover the first draft agenda at our meeting.

What I suggest is involving yourself, when it seems pertinent, to any of these types of events. They will not only give you product exposure, but engagement in the ultimate networking arenas. You need to rub shoulders with the experts in the field. Remember my favorite line, "sell one to someone other than your mother"? These events can introduce you to strangers who can become potential buyers or associates.

I also want to mention the Inventors Association Leadership Circle I spoke of last month. We have changed our name to Inventor Groups of America or IGA and will have our first conference held in Washington D.C. this April. We want to let our Congressmen know that the independent inventor is alive and has a large voting block. We are stressing the need for patent reform. I will speak more of this at our meeting.

Remember to have fun with your invention!