



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, April 12, 2018 - 7:00 pm

#4

### April Agenda:

- Short reminder of Inventor Groups of America in Washington D.C.
- No e-team report
- New Correspondence
- Get your product on MIC webpage.
- Reminder to schedule a table for the MIC Fall Expo
- At each meeting: members table of products – Show your product and print out a short history of how you reached your goals.
- Our Guest speaker is Paul Steinhauser – Paul invented and licensed the rights to Kid Casters [www.kidcasters.com](http://www.kidcasters.com) which has sold over 7 million to date. Another Walli product he invented is “Rollergaurd” which converts any children’s size ice hockey skate into a roller skate and has been endorsed by former Detroit Red Wing Chris Chelios. He has now developed a new product and will share his story with us looking for our thoughts on where he is headed.
- Networking

### Upcoming Events:

- Meet the Buyer 2018 – Flint on May 11. [www.FlintandGenesee.org/ptac](http://www.FlintandGenesee.org/ptac)
- MiQuest April Calendar of Events: [www.MiQuest.org](http://www.MiQuest.org)
- Upcoming Small Business Trainings in Flint  
<https://clients.sbdcmichigan.org/workshop.aspx?key=60380003>
- MTC Expo – San Diego, April 24-26 [www.mtcshow.com](http://www.mtcshow.com)
- Inventors Group of America goes to Washington - [www.inventleader.org](http://www.inventleader.org)
- National Hardware Show Inventor Spotlight – May 8-10 in Las Vegas  
[www.inventortradeshows.com/show/hardware/](http://www.inventortradeshows.com/show/hardware/)

### Minutes of March Meeting:

- Update on Michigan Inventors Coalition Expo and website
- IGA affiliations and help for inventors
- Importance of “Meet the Buyer”
- Discuss and compare the 3 Patent Bills before Congress – Outline from San Diego Inventors Forum
- Webcast – How Digital Marketing Can Help your Business
- Networking

### ***Inventor Resources***

#### 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)

#### National Affiliations

- Inventor Group of America  
[www.inventleader.org](http://www.inventleader.org)
- United Inventors Association of America  
[www.uiausa.org](http://www.uiausa.org)

### ICMM Officers & Directors

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### 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 has been a long cold winter! Having **Three** winters in one year should have helped inventors spend more time on developing their idea, or at least allowed them the time to do their own patent search at home. We have always suggested that our members do as much work on their own on the things they know they can do themselves. Having said that leads me to a short segment I would like to print an outline from an article by Don Debelak at [www.onestopinventionshop.net](http://www.onestopinventionshop.net) You can find the full article on his website, but I only want to mention a few and paraphrase the Reasons to Join Inventors Clubs:

- Look for a sounding board - Your goal in visiting an inventor's club is to meet "soul mates, people who had been through what your are going through to bounce ideas off [them]." The spirit of camaraderie is strong in most inventors' clubs, and that's what keeps even experienced inventors coming back.
- Making contact. One of the most valuable assets of an inventor club is its membership list, Members of most clubs include industrial designers, engineers, marketers, prototype builders and patent attorneys
- Present your idea to the group for feedback and help. Utilize the group to answer questions and get input. Some groups hold question and answer sessions and round table discussions. Others let inventors make full presentations to receive feedback.
- Get a variety of input from members who come from a variety of industries. You will get a group of people who offer their suggestions on how to solve a vast array of problems. Spending time with other bright minds will surely inspire you to think more creatively.
- Inventors clubs are fun. Most clubs feature fascinating guest speakers, have plenty of interesting inventors as members, and spark great conversations.
- Everybody needs help. A successful invention requires someone to create it, design its look and its function, write a patent, make a prototype, design the packaging, create a marketing strategy and eventually manufacture the product. Since few people possess all these skills, inventors don't always get the results they want when they try to do everything themselves. Now's a good time to admit that you could benefit from some help.

Remember to have fun with your invention!